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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-178
Thursday
13 September 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Nontransfer of Arab League Tunis Offices Urged

JN1309102090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—The follow-up committee emanating from the expanded joint meeting held by the institutions and organizations of joint Arab action and Arab mass unions has addressed a message to the foreign ministers of the Arab states who did not attend the Cairo meeting held the day before yesterday [10 September] viewing as highly dangerous the implementation of the decision to move the Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cairo.

The message reads as follows: Your excellencies esteemed Arab foreign ministers of Iraq, Tunisia, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Palestine, Algeria, and Mauritania:

During the meeting the Arab League held on 10 September 1990, the states attending the meeting whose number barely exceeded half the Arab League member states made a hasty and unjustifiable decision to move the Arab League General Secretariat from Tunis to Cairo. Nine Arab League member states, approximately half the League members, boycotted this meeting.

The decision to move the Arab League General Secretariat from Tunis to Cairo was made under these highly dangerous circumstances. The headquarters of the Arab League General Secretariat was moved from Cairo for political reasons in the wake of the conclusion of the ill-famed Egyptian-Israeli agreement under U.S. auspices. Likewise, the decision to return the headquarters from Tunis to Cairo was also made because of a political position.

In view of this, the implementation of the decision to move the headquarters from Tunis to Cairo cannot be for administrative, technical, or professional reasons as Egypt and other countries have been arguing. In view of all this, moving the Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cairo is a highly dangerous issue for the Arab nation by virtue of Egypt's position toward Israel and the U.S. invasion of the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Consequently, we appeal to you on behalf of the institutions and organizations of joint Arab action currently meeting in Baghdad and urge you not to approve the transfer of your offices to Cairo. We appeal to you to stay in Tunis and to take all measures to adhere to this position.

Arab Groups To Meet on Gulf Crisis 15 Sep

Objectives Outlined

JN1209103290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Sep 90 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES Staff Reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—More than 100 leaders and representatives of leftist, nationalist and Islamist parties will meet next Saturday for the first of its kind rally in solidarity with Iraq and against the U.S. intervention in the region.

The three-day event, organised by the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), is expected to be attended by representatives of more than 20 political parties from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Sudan, Mauritania, Egypt, Yemen, Lebanon and Syria, in addition to Iraqi delegations, Jordanian parties and Palestinian groups.

Organisers said that the meeting aims at asserting that the current conflict is not between Iraq and the rest of the world, as indicated by U.S. President George Bush recently, but it is a struggle for Arab sovereignty.

"It is a message to the U.S. and the West that Iraq is not alone," said Mu'nis al-Razzaz, a Jordanian novelist and newspaper columnist and an independent member of JANDA.

"This is a struggle for Arab sovereignty and total independence from American and Western domination," he said.

JANDA, a broad predominantly leftist, coalition of Jordanian parties and independent personalities, has extended invitations to prominent Arab activists, writers and leaders of popular organisations in an attempt to initiate an all Arab opposition movement against the American presence in the Gulf.

"The meeting will be nucleus for an organised and unified popular Arab movement to counter the American presence in the Gulf region," said 'Isa Madanat a communist member of JANDA.

According to written invitations sent by the alliance, the three-day meeting is intended to rally Arab popular support for Iraq, the Palestinian uprising, Jordan and to widen opposition to the U.S. presence and plans in the region.

In view of the deep divisions which emerged among the Arab governments over the Gulf crisis, political analysts say that the meeting will be the first real test for the unity of Arab popular organisations.

Jordanian political activists assert that the meeting will prove that while the Arab governments are torn by their divisions over the Gulf crisis, there is a popular consensus against American control of the Arab oil resources.

"We want to give a greater role for the elected representatives of the people to voice their opinion loudly on the issue," al-Razzaz said, explaining that many of the participants are elected members of Arab professional associations and trade unions. "These are the real representatives of the Arab people not the leaders who supported the American presence at the Cairo summit," he argued.

JANDA officials conceded that the parties invited differ in their evaluation of the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, but are united in their opposition to the U.S.-led multinational military troops in the Gulf.

"Some parties categorically reject the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait, while others fully back Iraq in everything," said a prominent JANDA member, who asked not to be named. "But we believe that a common ground will be easy to establish as they all are opposed to American policies in the Middle East," be explained.

JANDA officials hope that the Amman conference will build up popular pressure on Arab leaders who have sent troops to join the American forces in Saudi Arabia.

Although most of the delegations expected represent countries which have already stood against the American military involvement, the meeting will be an important forum to sound out the positions of the Egyptian and the Moroccan opposition movements.

Most of Egyptian leftist parties have opposed the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, but have been very critical of their government's pro-American policies.

A JANDA official said that while many Egyptian and Moroccan activists have accepted the invitation, the Syrian Baathists and Communists have declined.

He said that a number of Lebanese leftists and Islamists had been invited but could not confirm the names of those who would show up eventually. "Many are afraid of the Syrians but we hope that some prominent figures will be able to come," he said.

JANDA official spokesman Mamduh al-'Abbadi later told the Jordan Times that three independent Syrian writers and intellectuals had agreed to take part in the meeting, including well-known poet Mamduh al-'Udwan.

Another important objective of the Amman popular conference, according to JANDA organisers, is to secure wide popular backing for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative in which he linked solution to the Gulf crisis to an overall settlement for the Israeli-Arab conflict.

The U.S. has so far resisted any attempt to link the two issues together, but many Arab analysts believe that Arab leaders and organisations should continue pushing for asserting the link.

Over the past two weeks popular activities across Jordan have been dedicated to supporting both the Palestinian intifada and Iraq.

For many political activists the "steadfastness of Iraq" is crucial for sustaining the intifada and pressuring the West to address the Palestinian question.

"If Iraq collapses then it would be easier for Israel to crush the intifada and annex the Arab territories. At the same time the Gulf crisis should not overshadow the daily Israeli suppression of the intifada," one activist said.

On Saturday a big rally will be organised at the Royal Palace of Culture, where representatives of the various organisations will deliver speeches. The rally will, however, be followed by closed discussions, to take place at the Royal Cultural Centre, for the groups to discuss a unified strategy.

"There will be serious discussions on how to unite the Arab popular movement and to find practical steps to thwart American schemes in the area," said Madanat, who is also a deputy in the Lower House of Parliament.

Among the immediate objectives of the meeting, according to JANDA officials, is the issuance of a declaration rejecting international sanctions against Iraq and demanding a withdrawal of foreign troops from the Gulf.

JANDA will press for an outright rejection of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal to establish a pro-American Arab security alliance.

"Such proposals have always evoked strong popular resentments here and in the Arab World. It is amazing that the U.S. is still pursuing such ideas despite the failure of similar plans in the fifties," observed Madanat, who was actively involved in the Jordanian movement against the pro-Western Baghdad Security pact in 1955.

According to reports the suggested alliance would include the Arab countries which have so far supported the U.S. policies in the Gulf

Egypt Said Hindering Delegates

JN1309081290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13-14 Sep 90 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES Staff Reporter, Lamis Andoni]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn Saturday opens a pan-Arab conference of political parties on the Gulf crisis.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi spokesman of the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Alliance (JANDA), announced that King Husayn had accepted to open the pan-Arab meeting.

More than 120 representatives of Arab political parties and popular organisations are expected to attend the three-day conference, which aims at countering foreign intervention in the Gulf.

Invitations have been extended to major political parties and leading personalities in the Arab World, Dr. al-'Abbadi said. Political personalities and representatives of political parties from Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Sudan, Egypt, Mauritania, Syria, Yemen and Iraq have accepted the invitation, he said.

The JANDA, a broad coalition of Jordanian political parties and popular organisations, has also invited Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the Damascus-based leaders of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Nayif Hawatimah and George Habash.

Both Hawatimah and Habash have not visited Jordan since 1970, but recently—particularly following the democratisaton process in the country—representatives of their two groups have met with Jordanian officials.

The conference, which opens Saturday morning at the Palace of Culture, will be the biggest gathering of Arab political parties opposed to the American military presence in the Gulf.

Organisers expressed hope that the meeting will lay the foundations for a unified Arab popular movement against foreign intervention in the region.

At Wednesday's press conference, Dr. al-Abbadi was not sure that the Egyptian delegation would be allowed to travel to Jordan. He cited reports from Cairo which indicated that the Egyptian government was blocking the travel of Egyptian political activists to Jordan.

Agence France Presse reported Tuesday that a number of leftist and Islamists were banned from leaving Cairo airport. The international agency quoted Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, a Muslim Brotherhood deputy in the Egyptian parliament, as saying that an Egyptian delegation which was going to Amman and Baghdad was prevented from leaving the country.

Al-Hudaybi said that they were hoping to meet Iraqi officials and call for an Iraqi withdrawal of troops from Kuwait.

Another member of the Egyptian delegation was the leader of Egyptian Labour Party, Ibrahim Shukri, who has been invited to the Amman conference.

Details on Conference Preparations

*JN1209135490 Nicosia AL-AHALI in Arabic
5 Sep 90 p 16*

[Text] Amman—AL-AHALI has learned from reliable sources that the Arab National Democratic Alliance [al-Tajammu' al-'Arabi al-Dimuqrati] is busy these days preparing for the conference of Arab popular forces that the alliance will convene on 15 September under the slogan of resistance to U.S. military occupation of Arab territories, defense of Iraq and confrontation of the threatened attack, defense of Jordan, and support for Palestinians' rights and the glorious intifadah.

Several committees have been formed for this purpose from among the 14 members of a follow-up committee. These include the information committee comprising 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar, Mu'nis al- Razzaz, Tahir al-'Adwan, Muhammad Sa'id Madiyah, 'Azmi al-Khawaja, and Dr. Fayiz al-Hurani.

There is also an administrative committee chaired by the dean of the Engineers Union. Its task is to send invitations to the participants, organize the conference, and form any subcommittees it deems appropriate.

The financial committee is chaired by 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib. This committee has formed a subcommitte under Mashhur Hadithah to collect donations to cover the expenses of the conference.

A second administrative committee has been formed. This committee, which will be based at the Professional Unions Complex, comprises pharmacist Jamil al-Nimri, Khalid Ramadan, and Musa Abu- Humayd. The committee was entrusted with forming any subcommittees it deems appropriate to ensure the success of the conference.

Meanwhile, the operations room headed by Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi, which includes Salim al-Nahhas [AL-AHALI general manager], 'Azmi al-Khawaja, Amal Naffa', Abu-Khaldun, Ahmad al-Najdawi, Mu'nis al-Razzaz, Mashhur Hadithah, Tahir al-'Adwan, and Walid al-Ahmad, has had the invitations printed and prepared the list of guests from various parts of the Arab homeland. The list includes representatives of political parties and groupings in the Arab homeland and prominent political figures such as Ahmed Ben Bella from Algeria, 'Abdallah al-Sallal from Yemen, and Walid Junblatt from Lebanon.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference Issues Resolutions

*LD1309090190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0614 GMT
13 Sep 90*

[Text] Holy Mecca, 12 Sep (SPA)—The international Islamic conference, held to discuss the current situation in the Gulf, ended in Holy Mecca yesterday.

The following resolutions and recommendations were issued:

Resolutions and Recommendations

The International Islamic Conference on current situation in the Gulf: Mecca, 10-12 September 1990.

Thanks be to God; prayers and peace for his messenger and his companions.

Due to the events that have befallen the Gulf region following the Iraqi troops' invasion of Kuwait, their threat against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the states in the region, and following the decision of these states to seek the help of Arab, Islamic, and foreign forces to support their troops, the World Islamic League called for the convention of an international Islamic conference. This call brought together Muslim scholars and intellectuals from throughout the Islamic world, who met 10-12 September 1990. Out of their religious duty and their humanitarian and historic responsibilities, the participants discussed the serious events in the region. Out of their desire for the continuation and strength of ties of brotherhood, kinship, and neighborliness, out of their awareness of the threats and dangers facing the present, the future, as well as the moral and material entity of the Islamic nation, and following three days of deliberations that were characterized by the spirit of Islamic brotherhood, frankness, and objectivity, the conference issued the following resolutions and recommendations:

(1) As the Koran and Shari'a [Islamic] (law) stipulate that no Muslim should kill another Muslim, nor steal his wealth, nor attack his honor, the conference has decided to condemn the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, the stealing of money and property, the destruction of institutions, the desecration of sanctities. The conference also denounces the massing of armed forces on the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which poses a threat against its security and the security of the Gulf states.

(2) The conference called on the Iraqi regime to withdraw its forces from Kuwaiti soil immediately and unconditionally, and to withdraw its forces stationed on the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These forces should return to Iraq, all repercussions of the Iraqi occupation and threats should be removed. Iraq should bear responsibility for all the compensation for damage caused by the forces of Iraqi occupation, such as destruction and robbery.

(3) The conference called for the restoration of the Kuwaiti legitimacy, and its resumption of power in its country.

(4) Since the foundations of the Islamic Shari'a stipulate the honor of promises and charters for Muslims and non-Muslims, these foundations also call for the protection of the lives and wealth of non-Muslim messengers, ambassadors, and residents in Islamic countries in accordance with laws and diplomatic codes, the conference calls on Iraq to respect and commit itself to these charters.

(5) With regard to seeking help from foreign forces, and following a review of studies by religious scholars, the conference believes that such help sought by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from foreign forces to support its forces in self-defense was necessitated by legitimate need, and that the Islamic Shari'a allows such measure as long as it falls within the confines defined by the religious law. Once the causes of the presence of these forces, the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and removal of threat of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the states of the region are removed, these forces should leave the region.

The conference calls on Islamic countries to set up a permanent Islamic force, under the supervision of the ICO, to which Islamic countries would resort if conflicts among them emerges.

(6) The conference believes that Muslims need to reaffirm their repentence and return to God, to correct their course in all walks of life in accordance with the Book (Koran) and Sunnah (precedents based on the prophet Muhammad's doings and sayings), and they also need to shape youth spiritually and militarily so that they can face the imminent threats to the nation and defend the essence of Islam. The conference decided that the preparation of a force needed to safeguard the security of Muslims in their societies and to defend them against threats has become a duty [fard] determined by religion.

(7) The conference urges Islamic governments, bodies, and peoples to endeavor to prevent the outbreak of war and to achieve security and peace in the region.

(8) The conference urges Islamic governments, bodies, and peoples to make efforts to achieve the unity of Muslims by establishing an Islamic market, economic integration among them, and a joint defense pact.

(9) The conference urges Islamic governments to implement the Islamic Shari'a in all the judicial, political, and economic spheres, with consideration for establishing consultation [shura] among Muslims, purging Islamic societies from usury, and cleansing the media from everything that might violate Islamic teachings.

(10) The conference will continue in a state of permanent readiness to convene. A committee will be set up to follow up its work and to coordinate among Islamic bodies and organizations in dealing with the situation. Delegations from Islamic countries, peoples, and bodies will be formed to state the truth regarding what has taken place, its threat to the future of Muslims, and the need to contribute to the dealing with the problem. The conference calls on 'ulema (religious scholars) and thinkers taking part in it to contribute to dealing with the issue through their work and the bodies they work for, each according to their expertise.

(11) The conference calls on Islamic bodies to convene conferences and seminars to raise the awareness of Muslims regarding the subjects dealt with at the conference, so they benefit from the research and studies presented at the conference.

(12) The conference stresses the need for the participation of Islamic relief organizations, led by the International Islamic Aid Body and the International Red Crescent to help the victims of the Gulf disaster in all the countries concerned.

(13) The conference stresses that this tragic trial must not divert Muslims from their principal issues of destiny, led by the issues of al-Aqsa mosque, Jerusalem, Palestine, Afghan mujahidin, Kashmir, and the issues of oppressed Muslim minorities in the world.

(14) On the conclusion of its work, the conference wishes to thank the Islamic governments, bodies, and peoples which stood by the Kuwaiti people in their predicament, condemned the unjust Iraqi aggression, and supported the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the measures it has adopted. The conference singled out the custodian of the two holy mosque's government and the Saudi people, and other Islamic peoples' governments for standing by the Muslim Kuwaiti people, and for the care accorded to them. The conference also thanks the general secretariat of the Islamic World League for calling for and convening the conference, and for the excellent facilities it provided, which helped to conclude the business of the

conference within the time allocated. God bless and grant salvation to our master, Muhammad, and to all his family and companions. Praise be to God, the master of the two worlds. Issued in Mecca al-Mukarramah on 12 September 1990.

King Fahd Sends Message to Islamic Meeting

LD1109170890 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Speech by King Fahd at the opening session of the International Islamic conference on the current crisis in the Gulf, which opened in Mecca on 10 September, read on his behalf by Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin Al Turki—recorded]

[Excerpts] Honorable brothers: Peace be upon you and God's blessings and mercy be on you. [passage omitted]

Brothers, your meeting is convening at a difficult time which demands appeals to God, brave words in support of the right, and a true stand against wrong and aggression. [passage omitted]

You must have followed the sad events and their developments in the Gulf region, represented by the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, an aggression of invasion and occupation. Iraq has committed an abominable crime against Islam, homelands, and man, by occupying sister Kuwait, setting its people destitute, and looting its wealth. What makes the crime more abominable is that it was committed at a time when we were busy trying to find a just and fraternal solution to the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait. We were in active contact with Kuwait and Iraq and with other brothers, in a bid to quickly contain the conflict and solve it in a radical manner so that our nation may devote itself to tackling its causes of destiny.

Under these conditions, Iraq took us by surprise with its aggression against Kuwait. This demanded a decisive and bold stand against the aggression. We have firmly denounced the aggression. God's messenger—God's blessings and peace be upon him—stated: When you see my nation afraid to tell an oppressor that he was an oppressor, then that would mean the end of it.

When we ascertained that Iraq was also preparing to commit aggression against our country, having massed huge forces on our borders, we assumed our religious, security, and historical responsibility and asked for Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces to come to our support. This is a right given to us by the teachings of the Islamic religion, and international conventions and traditions, as corroborated by the Muslim 'ulemas everywhere.

We affirm to you that these forces have come only because of this Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the massing of Iraqi forces on the borders of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. Once the cause ends, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom will ask these forces to leave its territories. When the aggressor was faced with strong preparations to check his aggression and with a clear political stand, he resorted to misleading propaganda.

Brothers, the true and main cause of animosity to us lies in our adherence to the Islamic religion's teachings. I affirm to our 'ulemas as well as to our Islamic nation that we will constantly continue, with God's help, to follow the course of Islam, and constantly remain committed to the causes of Islam and the Muslims; whatever lies are uttered by the lie-mongers. [passage omitted]

Brothers, the issue is very clear. The dangerous crisis in the Gulf which threatens a frightful explosion in the region has one reason only, namely, the Iraqi aggression against the land of Kuwait and its sovereignty, stability, and resources.

As the cause of the crisis is very clear, so also is the way to end it, namely, the removal of its cause by Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to this fraternal Muslim Arab country. Every true Muslim loyal to his religion and nation, who is anxious to prevent the shedding of Muslim blood and who is aware of the frightful consequences of any military explosion in the region, must judiciously and actively try to eliminate the causes of the crisis and the problem, which is Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

The duty of the 'ulema and preachers in this regard is great: You must, honorable brothers, exert all efforts you can to rally the Muslims and explain the way to them so that they may, by the guidance of Almighty God, work for the stifling of the sedition, thereby complying with the words of Almight God. [passage omitted]

We pray to Almighty God to save our nation from the evils of sedition, oppression, and fratricidal fighting and to enable it to find a way out of this crisis. We hope your conference will produce results that will restore things to their proper form and realize the hopes for the re-establishment of peace and security over the region and over the whole world. God's peace, prayers and mercy be upon you.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Statement Urges Arabs To 'Safeguard' Unity

JN1209180090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Tunis, 12 Sep (INA)—The PLO has affirmed that absolute submission to the U.S. policy is a manifestation of a shortsighted approach that will inflict grave harm on the independence, stability, and security of Arab states. The PLO added that the pursuit of such an approach would also deprive the Arab states of their right to possess their national wealth and prevent them from proceeding along the path of development and modernization.

In a statement issued here today, the PLO called for a display of willingness to safeguard the unity of the Arab League and to halt the measures designed to demolish it—measures that will only serve the enemies of the Arab nation. The PLO also urged that efforts be made to salvage this unity before the common Arab home collapses completely.

The statement noted that the direct U.S. presence on the holy Arab lands seeks first and foremost to consecrate submission. The PLO added that this presence feeds Zionist aggressiveness and its expansionist drive against Palestine and the entire Arab nation. The object is to place the Arab region between U.S. and Zionist pincers with a view to consecrating the occupation of lands on the one hand and seizing control of the sources of wealth on the other, the PLO statement said.

The PLO criticized the U.S. Administration's policies, intentions, and measures. It also criticized the U.S. Administration's continued beating of the drums of war, its massing of more U.S. and foreign troops, and its preparations for an aggression on Iraq and for threatening pan-Arab and global security. Furthermore, the PLO criticized the U.S. Administration's insistence on separating the Arabian Gulf crisis from the Middle East conflict and the Palestine question. Likewise, the PLO criticized the U.S. determination to reject an international peace conference.

The PLO exposed the hypocrisy of the U.S. Administration and its use of a double standard in dealing with regional and international issues. It also exposed the U.S. Administration's partitioning of international legitimacy and its use of this legitimacy for the exclusive purpose of serving hostile U.S. and Zionist interests.

The PLO urged all Arab regimes to heed the voice of reason and conscience and to show interest in safeguarding future generations and the Arab homeland when dealing with crucial developments. It added that all capabilities must be mobilized in the search for an Arab political solution to the Gulf crisis to avert a catastrophe and close all doors to the campaign of war led by Washington against the entire Arab destiny—the war that will spare no country and nobody.

DFLP's Hawatimah Interviewed on Gulf Crisis

JN1209084190 Nicosia AL-AHALI in Arabic
5 Sep 90 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] by Chief Editor Ibrahim al-'Absi in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-'Absi] We find a resemblance between the 1956 Suez and the 1990 Iraq, however, with some difference. How do you view the picture in light of the regrettable Soviet stand?

[Hawatimah] There is a difference. And this is why we are saying that we are faced with a new situation. In 1956, Egypt was still growing. Arab conditions were also different. I believe the loss of the USSR can be offset by Iraq's own resources which are greater than those of Egypt during Suez. Iraq has a strong economic base and formidable military power. There is the role of the masses, a role which will force Arab regimes to join the war. I believe the trick will turn against the trickster; or to be more precise, it will fall on America's head. Iraq's steadfastness means that the Middle East map will be reshaped according to the will of peoples, not the will of the United States and its Arab proteges. Iraq's steadfastness will produce different results and the game will turn against the United States; that is, it will fall on America's head.

It remains to point out that the Soviet stand on the Gulf crisis is dictated by the domestic situation in the USSR and its impact on Soviet foreign policy. However, we must remember that the USSR has vested interests in the Middle East. This region, which is situated close to the USSR's southern border, consists of 50 million people whose interests interact with those of the USSR peoples, whether positively or negatively. Furthermore, Soviet interests conflict with U.S. interests. The United States considers our region as its own oil lake, which means that Soviet interests are controlled by the United States. This has prompted the USSR to harmonize its stand with those of France and China concerning the UN Security Council resolutions.

[Al-'Absi] Regarding Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative on withdrawal from all occupied territories in the Middle East, the French prime minister said: "The European community has not shown as much enthusiasm about the Palestine question it has about the Gulf crisis." He added: "A peace policy must tackle the roots of the problem. The Palestine question has remained a bleeding wound in Arab hearts."

Our question is: Could we not use these words in our diplomatic efforts?

[Hawatimah] It is necessary to use them. In fact, they are already being echoed by the PLO. Efforts must be exerted forthwith to seek an initiative by France, the USSR, and China to convene an expanded international conference to be attended by the countries which have interests in the Middle East, the western European states, and nonaligned states. The task of this conference should be to examine all Middle East crises and to find balanced comprehensive solutions for them. Thus, we would changed the entire situation from one dealing strictly with the Gulf crisis to one including the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The expanded international conference should discuss all these problems on the basis of the right of self-determination for all peoples.

The Gulf crisis has proved that one cannot possibly ignore other existing problems in the region. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Absi] Returning to the Palestine question, what has happened to the Palestinian peace initiative?

[Hawatimah] We must reactivate the Palestinian peace initiative since it is based on two important pillars, foremost of which is a comprehensive and balanced solution based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the legitimate national rights of our people. These rights are topped by their right to self-determination, solving the problem of refugees in accordance with UN resolutions, negotiating with the PLO and not with any other delegation from inside or outside it, and insistance on an international conference with the participation of the five big powers and not just the American godfather.

This is the initiative that must be reconsidered because, since 1988 and up to the Gulf crisis, things have been moving in the direction of finding solutions within the framework of the U.S. and Israeli proposals under the sponsorship of Washington and Egypt.

We must make a link at this stage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question. Proceeding from this, our Front, the DFLP, started proposing this subject to various parties. We sent messages on this issue to all the countries which participated in formulating the Security Council resolutions on the Middle East crisis. We demanded the need to implement the Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict by trying to issue a resolution which imposes military and economic sanctions on the Israeli occupation.

[Al-'Absi] It is said that the resolutions of the emergency Cairo summit held following the entry of the Iraqi forces into Kuwait were adopted beforehand. Do you agree with that?

[Hawatimah] It is a well-studied U.S.-Egyptian game, in which Saudi Arabia participated of course. The resolutions which resulted from this summit are a real catastrophe since they provided a cover for the U.S. and NATO forces to invade the region. They formed a larger rent in the Arab body and it has become virtually impossible to find an Arab solution to the crisis. I know that many Arab rulers who announce that they are looking for an Arab solution to the crisis, in their private sessions say the exact opposite of what they declare publicly. In fact, I know that these people saw to it that their poisons, represented in the hampering of the Arab solution, reached China and France. Their objective is to polish the U.S. solution and suggest that this solution is the only one. These people ignored, intentionally of course, the higher pan-Arab interest represented in defeating the United States.

One of the fruits of the corrupt Cairo summit is that it urged a great number of Arab countries to forget the historic opportunity of possibly linking the Gulf and the Middle East crises and calling on the international Security Council to take the appropriate resolutions to link the two crises and convene the expanded international conference we talked about.

[Al-'Absi] It seems that the Arab solution to the Gulf crisis has become impossible.

[Hawatimah] Unfortunately, the Arab leaders went to the Cairo summit without thoroughly examining the motives behind the call which aimed at crushing the Arab stand and opening the way for U.S. and NATO troops to enter the region—troops which do not threaten Iraq alone, because the fire will engulf the entire Middle East region. This is where we begin to understand the resolutions imposing a siege on Iraq, attempts to put pressure on Jordan and impose a siege on the Gulf of Aqaba, and threats against the Republic of Yemen. We believe that such aggressive courses did not start after the Gulf crisis, but before it, in order to create an appropriate atmosphere that would allow the United States to wage its aggression on Iraq since the United States and its allies have now begun to fear this growing Arab power with its huge military experience.

Israel's motive is to keep Jordan weak, subservient to the possibilities of invasion, and prone to Zionist expansionist schemes.

[Al-'Absi] We thank Mr. Nayif Hawatimah for his openness and frankness in this interview.

Algeria

Human Rights League Hosts Pro-Iraq Conference

LD1209201590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Representatives of the following bodies held a meeting at the headquarters of the Algerian League for Human Rights, in Algiers, today: the Algerian Committee for the Support of the Iraqi People, the Algerian League for Human Rights, the National Union of Algerian Lawyers, the Arab Committee for the Support of Fraternal Iraq in Algeria, the National Committee for the Support of Fraternal Iraq in Tunisia, the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights, and the National Lawyers Association of Tunisia.

The representatives of these bodies held a meeting during which they reviewed the latest developments of the Gulf crisis and its serious repercussions for the march of world peace and issues a final communique in which they included their stance toward this crisis.

The communique seeks complete coordination between these bodies to support the people of Iraq with all means to face the imperialist conspiracy. In this respect, the conferees decided to work for the setting up of a Maghreban committee for the support of the Iraqi people, which will enlarge in the future to include all the similar bodies in the other Arab states.

The communique stresses the need to work for realizing the plan to send a peace ship, on which will travel national, Arab, and international peace-loving personalities, which will pass through European and Arab ports on its way to fraternal Iraq to address human conscience in an effort to stand by the side of the people of Iraq. This ship will carry milk and medicine for the children of Iraq.

The aforementioned bodies also included in their communique their condemnation and anger at the Arab organization that gave in to the Western imperialist plan by allowing the American military presence on Arab land.

Hamrouche Addresses Youth Workers Seminar

LD1209165990 Algiers APS in English 1134 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 12 Sept (APS)—The head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche, chaired Tuesday here the closing session of the seminar of officials in charge of youth. On this occasion, Hamrouche made a speech which centered on the implementation of reforms and in which he underlined that these reforms were not born in a laboratory or an office but were imposed by the daily economic, commercial and political life.

The head of government pointed out in this context that the national investment was a failure as the companies evolved in a slow rhythm, noting the delay in the realization of some economic unities and the financial, social and economic consequences which may result. Indebtedness, Hamrouche said, was the result of the weak production, and the inability to pay back these debts means incapability of investment and production.

Hamrouche further dealt with the difficult conjuncture lived through by the sector of agriculture in Algeria which led to an enormous annual expenditure of 7 billion dollars for the import of food products.

Dealing with the public sector, the head of government said: "We support the public sector which has been at the origin of the development of Algeria". He added that "we asked this sector to work according to ongoing norms in the private sector companies without a financial deficit and we refuse to distribute benefits which are in fact only fictitious and inexistant benefits". Concerning the monopoly of external trade, Hamrouche said the "monopoly was aimed at countering the intermediaries but the commercial operations have become administrative operations. This, he said, has given the legal nature to all bad commercial transactions and led to a waste of funds".

In this context, Hamrouche said that "Algeria imports for 48 billion dinars and is considered as the first importer of milk in the world". [sentence as received]

The head of government also spoke for a long time about reforms "which, he said, mean freedom in the large sense of the term: political freedom for the choice of a project, freedom of trade, which will lead to a total eradication of the monopoly".

"We can't, he said, go over this step of reforms if it is not built on sound bases and the mobilization of all".

In conclusion, the head of the government dealt with measures undertaken by the government in order to provide the necessary aid for the unemployed youth for their social insertion. He pointed out that he has given instructions to walis (heads of provinces) to grant aid to youth by organizing them in associations and by assuring the necessary information and orientation".

Concerning the housing problem, Hamrouche committed himself to elaborate a special program to assure housing for all the youth under various forms.

Egypt

Kuwaiti Education Minister Arrives on Visit

NC1209170790 Cairo MENA in English 1552 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 12 (MENA)—'Abdallah Yusuf al-Ghunaymi, Kuwaiti minister of education, arrived here today on a three-day visit. He said that he would discuss educational relations between Egypt and Kuwait in the light of recent events. Dr. Fathi Surur, minister of education, who welcomed his Kuwaiti counterpart at the airport here, said that Egypt welcomed Kuwaiti pupils in Egyptian schools.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Leaves Cairo 12 Sep

NC1209122590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo this afternoon after a two-day visit, during which time he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad took part in the Arab League Council's emergency session which ended in Cairo on 10 September.

Argentine Foreign Minister Gives News Conference

NC1209182790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] In a meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo invited him to visit Argentina. Minister Cavallo announced this at a press conference he held today. The Argentine minister said there is an Egyptian invitation to Argentine president to visit Egypt. He hoped the two visits will take place next year.

He said he listened to President Mubarak's viewpoint on developments in the Arab arena and the Gulf region. He said his talks in Cairo touched on bolstering bilateral relations in the various fields. Minister Cavallo asserted that his country believes in the need to implement the UN resolutions which condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He emphasized that the economic embargo on Iraq must be tightened until the Iraqi President reconsiders his stands.

Cavallo said the dialogue between the two superpowers and their joint action are bound to solve this problem, on which the security of the entire world depends. He added that the Iraqi president's insistance that resolving the Palestinian problem should be parallel to that of the Gulf crisis is merely an attempt to divert Arab and Muslim attention. He announced that his country has decided to sever economic and military relations with Iraq.

Official talks were held between Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Argentine foreign minister. A statement issued after the meeting said the Argentine foreign minister paid a visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. The Argentine minister delivered a message to President Mubarak from Argentine President Carlos Menem.

The statement said the talks which were held today dealt with current international issues of common concern, primarily the Gulf crisis. The statement added that views were identical, particularly on the joint statement issued in the wake of the Helsinki summit between the U.S. and Soviet presidents.

The talks also reviewed the current situation in the Middle East and the Palestinian problem. The two sides agreed on the need to take measures to further bolster and diversify relations between the two countries, in embodiment of the principle of South-South cooperation.

Iraq Reportedly Plans Destabilizing Gulf States

JN1209144190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] For the second successive day, Egyptian security authorities have banned a delegation of the opposition Labor Party from leaving for Amman to join delegations from Jordan, Malaysia, Tunisia, and Algeria in conducting a popular mediation task in the Gulf. The delegation comprised Ibrahim Shukri, party head; Ma'mun Hudaybi, the spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood in the People's Assembly; 'Adil Husayn, the chief editor of the newspaper AL-SHA'B. It is known that the Labor Party supports Iraq in the Gulf crisis, and that its newspaper AL-SHA'B has waged strong attacks on the foreign presence in the region and on some Gulf leaders.

While the Arab League General Secretariat held a meeting in Cairo headed by Deputy Secretary General As'ad al-As'ad to discuss means of implementing the resolution on moving the League headquarters to Cairo, it was learned from informed Egyptian sources that Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal conveyed a message to President Mubarak from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz during their meeting yesterday. The message dealt with the latest developments in the Gulf crisis in which the Saudi monarch stressed that his country has information that Iraq intends to carry out a plan aimed at disrupting internal stability in the Kingdom and other Gulf states. The monarch said that his country will confront this plan with all its force and with the participation of friendly countries. The Saudi monarch's message also stated his country's support for the Egyptian economy and its intention to compensate Egypt for the damage caused by the Gulf crisis. He also expressed his confidence that Egypt will respond to any military needs requested by Saudi Arabia in order to defend its security in confronting any prospective Iraqi attacks.

Editorial Views Helsinki Summit, Options

JN1309095390 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Sep 90 p 7

[Editorial: "The Summit Scenario"]

[Text] Perhaps it was natural to hold a summit meeting between Bush and Gorbachev in light of the Gulf crisis. Such a meeting establishes a new tradition that is in line with the recently established world reconciliation. This meeting also affirms that any conflict that takes place in this age will have grave regional and international repercussions.

Leaders of the West are of course holding unceasing contacts on this crisis. However, devoting a U.S.-Soviet meeting for a single crisis, which is something rare, necessarily means two things. Firstly, it confirms the world dimension of this problem by encouraging the Soviet Union to have a role in it in view of its special contacts and intimate ties with Iraq; and secondly, it consolidates the international feeling that the ongoing contacts should comprise all major parties, as the Soviet Union has until recently been one of the two superpowers.

Undoubtedly, on the eve of the summit there had been diverse viewpoints between Washington and Moscow on the crisis. However, these differences did not rise to the level of objection or the use of the veto, for example, at the UN Security Council, despite the numerous resolutions it issued. In fact, the differences focused on the "requirements" of a peaceful solution as viewed by Moscow, in contrast to the need to "exhaust" peaceful efforts as viewed by Washington. The Soviet Union insists on a peaceful way out of the crisis through various initiatives and proposals, latest of which being the proposal for an international conference. Moscow also rejects an absolute military option, while Washington does not object to trying all peaceful options, but within a certain limit, after which the balance will tip in favor of a military solution, so that time would not be used to entrench the annexation.

Perhaps the summit was necessary at this decisive stage in particular, as each of the two parties was about go its own way. Therefore, the summit was necessary to reach an understanding about a unified approach to avert any disputes that may obstruct the march, or what has remained of it, especially regarding the issuance of new "decisive" UN resolutions which could become necessary, or regarding the military steps that could be adopted within an almost collective framework, when such steps become necessary. It is necessary that the Soviet Union does not, at least, object to them, if not take part in them, albeit in principle. This could take place within a timetable set by the summit or through subsequent contacts to specify certain "time limits" in order to exhaust the political and economic steps before entering the military cycle.

Bush-Gorbachev 'Joint Action' at Helsinki Praised

JN1209155790 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
10 Sep 90 p 6

[Editorial: "The Summit of Decisiveness In Face of the Adventure"]

[Text] Amid the international attention focused on the summit of decisiveness between Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, which concluded yesterday in Helsinki, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has pursued his defiance of values, principles, and the will of the international community by addressing a message to the summit in which he said that "any attempt by the superpowers to force the Iraqi Army to withdraw from Kuwait will be fruitless and will cause chaos in the Gulf region." He also claimed that the foreign presence in the Gulf will hinder a peaceful settlement.

It is obvious that Saddam Husayn has lent a deaf ear to the voice of reason, and used the word chaos instead of the correct word "destruction," without paying heed to the fact that the Helsinki summit took place against a very important background—we mean the world's moving from the stage of condemning the Iraqi aggression and the "Saddamist" belligerence in the region to the stage of joint action so as to defeat the Iraqi aggression. This fact is attested to by the coordination and military action witnessed in the Gulf waters, in addition to the continuous success achieved through the international economic embargo on Iraq—measures which increase the chances of a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Saddam Husayn has also forgotten that the general atmosphere of the Helsinki summit is permeated with the idea of success in the first test to the new global order following the great transformation in the relations of the two superpowers and the total elimination of the causes of the cold war. Add to this the world's witnessing the implementation of the agreement to dispose of medium-range nuclear weapons; the East European democracies; the emergence of big economic conglomerates; and giving top priority to the economic factor in international dealings at all levels. Of course, President Bush, who considers the Gulf crisis a central issue, and his counterpart Gorbachev, who seeks the full implementation of perestroyka, will not permit burial of the new global order to please the adventurer Saddam Husayn. Truer still is President Husni Mubarak's announcement, following his meeting with James Baker, that the summiteers should see eye-to-eye on the various aspects of dealing with the crisis, so as to give momentum to the search for a solution, which we still hope will be peaceful, after the chances of an Arab solution have faded away.

Editorial Says Must Punish Embargo Violators

JN1209153890 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
6 Sep 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Toward the Failure of the Boycott"]

[Text] Talk has begun circulating about deliberate and many-sided violations of the international decision to impose an economic—supposedly foolproof—embargo on Iraq, backed by the resolution allowing the use of all available means by those countries with armies according to what they deem suitable for each case.

There was a great deal of talk earlier about Jordan being virtually the only source of embargo resolution violations. Something similar to haggling took place between Amman and Washington at the highest levels, resulting in Jordan's announcement that it adheres to the resolution, while it will receive compensation as a party harmed from implementing the embargo. Then there was talk about the continuing violation of the resolution by the convoys and trucks traveling in large numbers every day without letup toward the east of Jordan. The U.S. State Department intervened to announce officially that this was not the only violation; there are also other routes for smuggling from Syria and Turkey, as well as Western Europe, and the smuggled goods also include military equipment.

These are statements some people believe will someday become proverbial right from the start of the crisis. In other words, they will become a definite justification at one point in time—because of their repetition and indication of the absolute failure of the embargo—for preparing to resort to Article 42 of the United Nations Charter, which does not stop at an armed naval blockade, but legalizes UN offensive, deterrent forces to wage war and achieve the previously declared goals of the Security Council resolutions which were not applied successfully.

Alongside the gradual progress toward announcing the final failure of the embargo, the statements issued from now on regarding this issue have yet another goal, which is to urge the countries that until now have not participated actively in the naval blockade—which are satisfied with implementing the blockade on their own or merely announcing that they will do so—to actually participate in the military buildup, even if symbolically, due to the need to seal the blockade and the sources of leakage. In this way, the picture of Arab efforts will be finalized with time in preparation for distributing the military loads and roles—when the time comes—in a more condensed, gathered manner.

If there still are some disputes regarding the embargo on foodstuffs and medicines, since some countries refuse to adhere to it, then the allusions to the smuggling of military equipment into Iraq could be an prelude to an actual condemnation of some of these countries violating the embargo. This is an issue calling for activating military action and making it the focal point of interest and implementation, as well as taking peripheral, unofficial measures against the countries which violate the embargo in order to punish them.

Petroleum Authority Fixes Crude Oil Prices

NC1209142190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—The Egyptian Petroleum Auhtority has decided to fix the selling prices of Egyptian oil crude at the following standards as of tomorrow, Thursday: Khalij al-Zayt and Ra's al-Bihar crude—$29.30 per barrel; Suez Gulf crude—$29.00 per barrel; Bala'im crude—$28.15 per barrel; Badran crude—$27.00 per barrel; and, Gharib crude—$26.70 per barrel. [passage omitted]

Libya

Tripoli Denies Involvement in Mali Coup

LD1209161290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1155 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Sep—A responsible source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has affirmed the Great Jamahiriyah's concern to safeguard its good relations with all the African countries and not to interfere in their internal affairs, and that it has not and will not provide any help or support to any act aimed at harming the security of these countries or detracting from their sovereignty.

The source was thus commenting on a statement attributed to the Malian president concerning a rebellion attempt in his country and the embroilment of Libya's name in this attempt.

Nujoma Thanks Al-Qadhdhafi for Assistance

LD1209193390 Tripoli JANA in English 1632 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 12, JANA - Arab Maghreb Union's pool—President Sam Nujoma of the Republic of Namibia highly appriciated the enormous efforts being exerted by the leader of the revolution and the unlimited assistance the people of Great Jamahiriyah provided in the aim of liberating Namabia and its gaining its independence.

In a letter sent to the leader of the revolution, Sam Nujoma asserted that Great Jamahiriyah has been considered one of the few countries which offered full support for the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] liberation front for the independence of Namibia.

In his letter to the leader, Nujoma said "the aid your great country had provided together with your brotherly people were considered a matter we all are proud of and it is impossible to find the appropriate words to genuinely express our gratitude and appriciation".

Sam Nujoma added "I cannot but say that the Libyans had extended their sacred contribution towards the liberation of Namibia. For this I am fully convinced that the Republic of Namibia will work towards cooperation with Great Jamahiriyah in our common struggle agianst imperialism, Zionism, and apartheid on the international level."

Sudan

Al-Bashir Discusses Gulf Crisis, Arab Issues

JN1209171790 Paris AL-YAWM AL-SABI' in Arabic 10 Sep 90 pp 14-15

[Interview with President 'Umar al-Bashir by Faysal Jallul in Paris on 3 September]

[Text] [Jallul] Sudan's position on the events in the Gulf is based on rejecting the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the U.S. presence in the region. Will you continue taking this stand, and if so, for how long?

[Al-Bashir] Our stand is a principled one. We are for respecting the international charters and the Arab League Charter. We do not believe in resolving Arab disputes by force. Proceeding from this, we stated that we do not support Iraq in its invasion of Kuwait.

However, at the same time, we are against the foreign presence in the Gulf because, as you know, the United States, to say the least, is the ally of our Zionist enemy, and it is illogical to call for help from our enemy to resolve our problems. Although Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is wrong, this mistake should not be addressed with another, greater mistake. The U.S. and foreign presence poses a danger to the whole region. We know about the U.S. designs on the region, and its desire to control the oil. By calling its troops over here, we have realized one of its goals. In addition, we believe that the Iraqi force is a force that will revive hope for the Arabs after a long period of desperation. This Iraqi force could stand up in the face of the Zionist force and its expansionist designs in the Arab world. Proceeding from this evaluation, we have defined our position on the Gulf developments.

[Jallul] Some media in the Gulf have reported the presence of an Iraqi military brigade and Iraqi missiles in Sudan, and that this presence could be very useful in the case of a possible U.S. attack on Iraq. Are these reports correct? And what will Sudan's stand be if Washington carries out a military attack on Iraq?

[Al-Bashir] All this information about an Iraqi presence in Sudan is wrong. Those who are spreading it are aiming to realize certain objectives and create a gap between Sudan and Saudi Arabia, since they claim that this Iraqi presence they are talking about—represented by planes, missiles, and the like—is to the east of Sudan. These rumors greatly serve the rebel movement in the south of Sudan, because this movement seeks to gain the support of African countries by saying that the war in the south is a war between Arabs and Africans.

Regarding the second part of your question, I say that Sudan does not hope that U.S. forces in the Gulf will strike Iraq; nor does it support such a step, because the Iraqi force is first and foremost an Arab force.

[Jallul] Let us assume that this does happen. What will Sudan's practical stand be in such a case?

[Al-Bashir] This is a hypothetical question. From the military point of view, all our forces are in southern Sudan and the operations region. We hope that this war does not break out, because its effects will not stop at Iraq's borders. The amount of weapons present in the region and their destructive capacity will lead to catastrophic effects on the rest of the Arab nation, and perhaps the whole world also. I believe that no one will be saved from the effects of this war if it breaks out.

[Jallul] There are a number of Arab initiatives proposed to resolve the Gulf crisis, stressing the need to reach an Arab solution. Where do you stand on these initiatives? And do you think they can be useful?

[Al-Bashir] After touring several Arab states, including Iraq, we have ascertained that an Arab solution can be useful, because the outbreak of a war would render all parties losers. This is a conviction that all Arab states have. All of them hope to see a peaceful solution to this crisis. I believe that the continuation of efforts to find an Arab solution to this crisis is a clear indication that the opportunity is still there.

[Jallul] When you visited President Saddam Husayn, did you feel a readiness on his part to respond favorably to an Arab solution to the crisis?

[Al-Bashir] Yes. He expressed a readiness to commit himself to an Arab solution. We proposed to him specific ideas for a solution. He neither objected to them nor accepted them in their entirety. This proves that these ideas are negotiable to Iraq.

[Jallul] What kind of ideas are you talking about, Mr. President?

[Al-Bashir] It is not yet high time to talk about these ideas. We will embark on another Arab tour that will also take us to Iraq to crystallize these ideas. We will present to the two camps the outcome of our deliberations. We will also present to the camp opposing Iraq the ideas that we presented to President Saddam Husayn—ideas which he expressed a readiness to discuss—in the hopes that we will reach a solution to this problem.

[Jallul] Did you think of consulting with the other states; namely, Palestine, Yemen, Algeria, Jordan, Libya, Tunisia, and Mauritania so that you can come up with a joint initiative?

[Al-Bashir] Consultations are continuing with these states. We are in the process of expanding the chances of success for this hoped-for peaceful initiative to make it acceptable to the other side. The recent visit to Khartoum by president Yasir 'Arafat falls within this framework. Likewise, our meetings with brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, with the Libyans, and with the Algerians also fall within this context. We will visit the Gulf states to present to them the outcome of our consultations. We will also return to Iraq for the same purpose.

[Jallul] Some Western analyses have said that the Gulf crisis has raised the issue of Arab wealth, and shown that the distribution of this wealth is unfair. We see wealth accumulating on one side, and poverty plaguing the other side. Your country belongs to the other side. Do you agree with these analyses? And do you believe that the Gulf crisis is an occasion for discussing the issue in the future?

[Al-Bashir] Arab wealth belongs to a part of the Arab nation. We have never on any occasion upheld the principle of redistributing Arab wealth. However, we call for cooperation among Arab states. We used to say that he who has a surplus of funds can be exploitative somewhere in the Arab homeland. That is, we have never demanded a redistribution of wealth. We have never said that cash allocations should be given to this or that country. We have consistently sought to see Arab funds used for investment in the Arab world, in the regions where Arabs can draw greater benefits. We in the

Sudan have the lands that can produce the major part of the Arab world's food requirements, if part of Arab funds is invested in these lands. This could take place within the context of joint Arab coordination, and might afford those who have these funds greater benefits than what they could obtain elsewhere.

[Jallul] What is your position toward moving the Arab League headquarters to Cairo, in the light of the Iraqi memorandum which calls for reconsidering this issue?

[Al-Bashir] We have not yet thought about this, nor made any consultations. The decision, as you know, has already been made. We in the Sudan have not yet discussed it.

[Jallul] How do you view the resignation of Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi?

[Al-Bashir] We have no knowledge about the background of the resignation. Of course, we know about the Tunisian stand on the decision to move the League headquarters. Perhaps there is also a Tunisian stand on the recent summit, manifested in its absence, and perhaps there is also the stand of the Tunisian street. However, we do not have, so far, complete background about the resignation of the League's secretary general.

[Jallul] There have been reports about expelling a number of Palestinians and Yemenis from some of the Gulf countries on grounds of the Palestinian and Yemeni stands on the crisis. Have any Sudanese been expelled on the same grounds?

[Al-Bashir] So far, we have not heard about a Sudanese national being expelled from that region because of our stand on the Gulf crisis. This is the first time I hear about this. We have heard from Saudi Arabia that the Arab communities in the Kingdom will not be affected as a result of their countries' stands on the crisis. In the past, Arab countries have had their disagreements. However, the presence of Arab nationals has never been affected by this. We hope nothing of the kind will occur because we are used to hearing about problems among Arabs which were later resolved, and then things would return to normal.

[Jallul] Former President Ja'far Numayri recently appeared in Cairo, and made statements which you are familiar with. Was his appearance due to a personal initiative, or was he given the chance to appear because of the current circumstances?

[Al-Bashir] Prior to the last crisis, Numayri appeared in an interview which was published in the United States. Moreover, a Lebanese newspaper published in London conducted an interview with him in which he said he would go back to power. This is Numayri; he has always been undecided. Since 30 June, he used to support us for a week, and oppose us the second week. This is not really important for us because neither Numayri nor all the symbols of his era has any influence on the Sudanese political arena.

[Jallul] There is talk about Israel's controlling Dahlak Island in the Red Sea, or that it is seeking to control it. This of course affects navigation in the Red Sea, and brings it under Israeli supervision. The question here is addressed to you since you are directly concerned about security in that area. So, do you have any definite information about this, and how do you view the dimensions of such an Israeli move?

[Al-Bashir] Pan-Arab security is an indivisible whole. Israel has seized the opportunity of the Eastern countries' preoccupation with their problems and the recession of the support they provide for Ethiopia. Israel has also capitalized on the difficulties Ethiopia is suffering, and the danger of partitioning Ethiopia at the hands of opposition, in addition to Ethiopia's need for urgent support. Israel, which has seized this opportunity to prop up the Ethiopian impotence, will certainly receive the price. This price is its military presence on Dahlak Island, because through its presence in that island, Tel Aviv would be able to control the Bab el Mandeb, which we consider one of the vital passageways of the Arab world for its oil exports and its imports from Europe. In reply to your question, I assert that Israel is present in that area. We are absolutely certain about that.

[Jallul] Are both Israel and the Soviet Union on the island, because reports say the Soviet Union will not leave the island before the beginning of next year?

[Al-Bashir] The Soviets and their advisers have left. They have no further presence in that region. We know that there is an Israeli presence on the island. This calls for confronting the danger. Israel exists in the region to strangulate the Arabs in one of their most important, vital straits.

[Jallul] You have concluded a security and an oil agreement with Libya. Why did this take place now?

[Al-Bashir] All this is done within the framework of the unionist plan between the two sides. There is a sincere desire to begin this plan between us and the brothers in Libya.

[Jallul] Who holds the power to break the unionist bond between you and the Libyan Jamahiriyah?

[Al-Bashir] (He laughed) This power is in the hands of the people in the two countries. We are trying to establish a strong basis for this unity so that it will not be affected by any changes in Sudan or Libya. Hence, what we build will not be destroyed by anyone later.

[Jallul] Does this plan not stir the fears of your neighbors in Chad?

[Al-Bahsir] Yes, they fear this integration plan. However, we have told them that this is not targeted against Chad or any other country. It is in fact the nucleus of an integrated action which would be a model for Arab unionist action. This action is open for all Arab countries as well as African countries if they want. We and Libya have taken steps beyond the Maghreb Union. As you know, the Libyan-Sudanese charter does not prevent any state from entering into any other regional grouping.

[Jallul] Some foreign states talk about an increased reinforcement of Libyan influence in Darfur?

[Al-Bashir] The Libyan presence or the Islamic Corp does not exist in Sudan. This talk is false. A Chadian opposition force broke away from Hissein Habre and entered the region of Darfur in Sudan. It was supposed to lay down its arms and be treated like refugees. However, the former government, for mere personal reasons with no benefit for Sudan, gathered this opposition and began to seek support for it. This Chadian force became large and developed into an army in Darfur. We were surprised by this when we assumed power. We did not have a military presence in this region to deter this force and the government in Chad. We exerted efforts and are still doing so to reconcile Idris Dibi [name as published] and Hissein Habre. We believe that Dibi's departure from the Chadian Government was accomplished by foreign hands in order to weaken Hissein Habre. They wanted to turn Habre against Idris Dibi in order to allow the emergence of a third power which would assume power. This is what foreign powers usually do. The conflict is not in the interest of either side. We believe that the third power chosen to emerge would be hostile to Arabs and Muslims. The purpose behind its emergence and handing it power is to make Chad a base hostile to the Arab nation. Therefore, we are actively seeking reconciliation between the two sides.

OAU's Salim Arrives 11 Sep for Visit

Makes Statement

*EA1209151990 Khartoum SUNA in English
1651 GMT 11 Sep 90*

[Text] Khartoum, 11th September (SUNA)—The secretary-general of the OAU, Salim Ahmed Salim, arrived in Khartoum Tuesday on a two-day visit to the country. Salim was received at Khartoum Airport by the acting foreign minister, 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, and a number of officials and ambassadors acredited to Sudan.

In a press statement upon arrival, Mr. Salim said his visit comes in response to an invitation by RCC [Revolution Command Council] and it aims at exchanging viewpoints on the latest developments in Africa, Sudan's relations with the OAU, as well as the current international developments.

On the other side, the acting foreign minister said Salim's visit comes in the framework of the continuing consultations between Sudan and the OAU over the African issues.

Favors Peaceful Gulf Solution

*EA1209152290 Khartoum SUNA in English
1653 GMT 11 Sep 90*

[Text] Khartoum, 11th September (SUNA)—The OAU is for the peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, announced here Tuesday the OAU's secretary-general, Salim Ahmed Salim. In a interview with SUNA, Mr. Salim said the split in the Arab line will not affect only the Arab states but the African continent will in the same time will be affected [as received], adding that several Arab countries are members in the OAU. The African and Arab countries are linked with cultural, historical and economic relations, he said. He further pointed out that the OAU is concerned with the Gulf crisis and it [passage indistinct].

SPLA Reports Military Engagement With Convoy

EA1209175090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] The so-called Abtal Juba [Juba heroes], Ba's al-Hadid [Iron Fortitude], and Harb al-Suqur [War of the Hawks] convoys left for Juba in their hasty withdrawal yesterday at zero hours [as heard] from Mile 45 Bridge. The soldiers of these enemy convoys had earlier asked for a free passage to be granted to them by Bright Star campaign forces. In response to this request, the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] leadership authorized the Bright Star campaign commander to give free passage and not to attack the enemy soldiers while returning back to Juba as from 1500 [1300 GMT] Monday, 10 September 1990, on condition that they do not harass the civilian population, they do not temper with the properties of the local population, and that they do not attack the SPLA while on the move.

The enemy hastily left Mile 45 Bridge six hours before the deadline of 1500 granted for their safe withdrawal and came firing artillery shells randomly at the nearby villages and violating the conditions for their safe passage. The enemy was engaged by the gallant forces of Bright Star campaign phase, southern sector, at about 1100 [0900 GMT] in a battle that lasted several hours. The enemy suffered very heavy casualties in men and materials, including more than 30 killed and more than 100 wounded, according to two captured enemy soldiers. The destruction of the so-called Harb al-Suqur continues. However, the SPLA's offer of free passage still falls under the same conditions.

Bahrain

Tunisian Minister Departs After Delivering Message

NC1209171190 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 12 Sep (WAKH)—Tunisian Minister of Culture and Information Mr. Ahmed Khaled left Manama for Doha today, after a visit to Bahrain within the framework of a regional tour.

The Tunisian minister delivered a written message to H. H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Kuwait

Finance Minister Announces $5 Billion Aid Package

AU1209135890 Rome ANSA in English 1248 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Rome, 12 Sep (ANSA)—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah al-'Adhbi announced Wednesday his country is willing to contribute up to five billion dollars to help pay for the deployment of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia and to help those countries most hard-hit by the UN Sanctions against Iraq.

In an interview to the Rome daily, IL MESSAGGERO, from his Saudi Arabian exile, al-Adhbi also expressed satisfaction over the results of Sunday's [9 September] Helsinki summit between Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev and said he hopes to be able to return to his country soon.

The minister, cousin of the Kuwaiti emir, said time is on his side: "Every day that passes there are more troops, the international community loses more patience with the Iraqi dictator, making a return to the previous situation inevitable."

He said initiatives must come at the right moment and must not be hurried, giving diplomacy, sanctions and international pressure time to have their effect.

He also expressed appreciation for the European Community's position, which he called "without ambiguity" and "courageous."

"I detest having Saddam Husayn as a neighbor," he concluded, "but Iraq is our geographic neighbor."

Egyptian Ambassador Leaves City for Baghdad

NC1209194690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The Egyptian ambassador in Kuwait has left the embassy building for Baghdad. The remaining embassy staff of 15 diplomats will catch up with him later.

According to Egyptian sources, the decision to evacuate the Egyptian Embassy was made because water and electricity supply to the embassy was cut and because of the shortage of necessities.

Paper Says Withdrawal Saddam's Only Option

PM1309142190 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Saddam Will Never Hear Anything But the Call of Death"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpts] Sunday's world summit between George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev left no room for speculation, guesswork, or question about what the entire world wants from the Iraqi regime which, with a naivete bordering on idiocy, tried to persuade Gorbachev to revive the Soviet Union's role as a power of conflict in the Cold War. The world summit was just and decisive when it called on the Iraqi regime to implement the Security Council resolutions passed unanimously with the exception of the state of Yemen, which is of no importance and which adopted a hostile stance against Kuwaiti rights and against international legitimacy.

The world summit has told Saddam al-Tikriti that there is no option open to him other than complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory and restoration of the legitimate authority under our leader the amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, and his government to the position of responsibility in our homeland. The summit told Saddam al-Tikriti that it rejects every Baghdad decision on Kuwait's sovereignty and that Kuwait is a fully sovereign state not an al-Tikriti province. Anyone who knows the history of international politics knows what that means and knows that this is the final attempt to dissuade Saddam Husayn from insisting on his blind decisions. It is a declaration that comes before the final decision, which will begin with a tighter economic blockade against the Gulf's new Hitler.

We do not expect Saddam Husayn to respond to the world summit appeal. The man is so unbalanced now that he imagines that his military power is really the best in the world and that nobody would dare destroy his mad military machine. [passage omitted]

Anyone hearing the news of the fighting between the forces loyal to Yasir 'Arafat and the forces loyal to Abu-Nidal, both in his [Saddam's] own camp, would realize that Saddam's countdown for destroying 'Arafat has begun and that the time has come for erasing the kisses of sympathy, appeasement, and hypocrisy. Saddam Husayn has begun paying 'Arafat back for the support that some honorable Palestinians have declared for Kuwait and for their rejection of the occupation.

There is a price to be paid for that "pan-Arab crime," and someone has to pay the price whenever there is a price to be paid. Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] will be the first to pay, followed by the entire Jordanian regime, not just the king. Saddam Husayn does not change his blood, he just changes his skin. The man who on 19 June 1961 supported 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim's threat to occupy Kuwait is the same man who personally tried to assassinate Qasim. Saddam Husayn is the same man who hated Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and Egypt for their leading role in the Arab world. Saddam Husayn, who had frequently tried to get rid of the royalist regime in Jordan, will turn his guns on that regime in fulfillment of the eternal Iraqi Ba'th Party claim that the king, regime, and army of Jordan are nothing but an instrument of imperialism and of Washington's policies and a natural ally of Israel, in the words of Saddam Husayn himself.

The world summit call has fallen on Saddam Husayn's deaf ears. He is blind to all measures and calculations. Nothing will be heard from him other than rejection and deceptive maneuvering. The man wanted nothing from the the Helsinki summit other than postponement of the world's just sentence against him. He will exploit the time in a final attempt to save his barbaric seat of power before the world takes him to the death chair he deserves.

Army Combat Team's Morale 'High' at Front

NC1209191890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Sep (WAKH)—The commander of the Kuwaiti Army combat team stationed at the front has asserted that the Kuwaiti Army's morale is very high, particularly because they are among their Saudi and Arab brothers who are working side by side to avert the danger and foil the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. Kuwait radio said the commander was speaking to Arab and foreign journalists and international news agencies and television correspondents who toured the front today. He referred to the existing coordination among the Saudi, Kuwaiti, and Arab troops who are jointly operating under the Saudi command.

Shaykh Sa'ad Holds Press Conference in London

PM1009110690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 4

[Rifqi al-Tayyib report: "Shaykh Sa'ad in London: Invasion of Saudi Arabia the Aim Behind Iraq's Invasion of Kuwait"]

[Text] London—Kuwaiti heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah has declared that his country would take up arms and struggle and fight until the last man, woman, and child, along with its brothers and friends who have supported it and rejected Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, if economic sanctions and diplomatic efforts fail to force the Iraqi regime to withdraw from Kuwait.

He added: We do not want war for the sake of war, but forces have occupied my country, and as long as Saddam Husayn insists on keeping his forces there he must personally bear the responsibility for what could happen in the near future and pay the price. He has a chance to withdraw and spare that vital part of the world the calamities of war.

Shaykh Sa'ad revealed that "the aim of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was—it was a prelude to the invasion of Saudi Arabia, especially as the Iraqi forces moved to within two km of the Saudi borders. King Fahd realized then that an invasion of Saudi Arabia was a possibility."

In reply to a question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT at the press conference he held yesterday morning at the Commonwealth Institute in London concerning what steps should be taken following the Iraqi regime's rejection of all UN, Islamic, and Arab resolutions, he said: "Now that the Security Council has passed its known resolutions and the UN secretary general has met with the Iraqi regime's foreign minister, and now that the whole world has heard and knows that that meeting failed, the secretary general will submit a report on his meeting with the Iraqi minister. It is now up to the Security Council, which will meet next week to discuss the report."

He added: We hope that the economic blockade and sanctions approved by the Security Council will produce positive results... I cannot say how long the sanctions and the blockade will take... So implementation of other political and military steps—particularly in acccordance with article 51 of the UN charter calling for military intervention—is a matter of international law. We will wait and see what the Security Council decides in this connection.

In reply to another question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT concerning Kuwait's position on the Soviet initiative advocating an international conference to discuss the Gulf crisis, Shaykh Sa'ad said that his country had heard that there was an intention to hold such a conference, adding that "Kuwait makes no preconditions, but we wish and hope that Presidents Bush and Gorbachev will concentrate at their summit next Sunday on the need to implement all Security Council resolutions." He pointed out in this connection that Shaykh Jabir had spoken with the U.S. President and agreed with him on the necessary measures to implement the international resolutions, and that the dialogue between them took place before the announcement on U.S.-USSR summit.

The heir apparent and prime minister reaffirmed the determination of his government and people to liberate Kuwaiti territory from the criminal occupation force, whatever the sacrifices, and said that Kuwait would never forfeit a single inch of Kuwaiti territory.

He emphasized his country's adherence to all the UN resolutions which called for the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the country's legitimate authorities.

Asked if the Kuwaiti resistance had achieved any significant success, Shaykh Sa'ad said: "The answer, in a word, is 'yes.'"

Declining to go into detail, he added: "I hope you appreciate the circumstances of the resistance, but as media representatives you will be hearing a lot about the resistance activities, though without details."

Shaykh Sa'ad expressed satisfaction with the heroic activities of the valiant resistance against the aggressors. He added that reports reaching him about these activities indicate that "they occur at least three, four, or five times a week, if not every day."

He warned that the Iraqi regime was trying to separate the Kuwaiti people from their government, but it had received a clear and direct response to this from the entire Kuwaiti people. He added: We Kuwaitis are not divided between rulers and ruled: We are a single solid, cooperating family. Everyone regards His Highness the Amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as the leader and head of that family and as the symbol of all Kuwaitis.

The heir apparent and prime minister spoke about the looting and pillaging carried out by the Iraqi forces in Kuwait and "how they stole cars from special establishments and Kuwaiti Airways planes which were at Kuwait airport on the day of the invasion and looted commercial centers."

Shaykh Sa'ad condemned the Iraqi authorities' holding of Western hostages in Baghdad and Kuwait, adding that by taking such deplorable action, Saddam Husayn wanted to "put pressure on these states and to use these innocent people as a human shield for his military installations. Following pressure from many states, he began to releas women and children, but has kept the men."

Referring to the Iraqi decision to close foreign embassies in Kuwait, he said that all states have refused to give in and refused to accept that illegal Iraqi decision.

With regard to the Iraqi regime's so-called initiative, Shaykh Sa'ad said that the aim was to procrastinate and play for time, "but the whole world is aware of the dimensions of these failed plots." He described the Iraqi proposals as a failure.

With regard to the Arab League secretary general's resignation, the heir apparent said that he heard the news the day he came to London but had no information about the reason for the resignation. He said that he hoped that Chedli Klibi would reconsider his resignation.

In reply to another question, he said that Kuwait was one of the states which believed that the building up of Iraqi power would be for the purpose of serving Arab causes, particularly the liberation of Arab territories occupied by Israel, but regrettably these forces were used to occupy Kuwait.

Shaykh Sa'ad repeated that what Kuwait wants is the implementation of all the UN Security Council resolutions stipulating that Saddam Husayn must be compelled to withdraw his forces unconditionally from all Kuwaiti territories and that "the Kuwaiti legitimate authorities be enabled to exercise their powers. As regards the Saddam Husayn regime's future, I believe that the regime is dangerous to Iraq and the region, but I leave it to the Iraqi people to act now and in the future."

Shaykh Sa'ad expressed his appreciation and thanks to the fraternal Arab states and the friendly states which have supported Kuwait, condemned the Iraqi aggression, sent military units, and called for the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate authorities.

Regarding the possibility of giving aid to King Husayn of Jordan, the prime minister said: Everyone knows to what extent we supported King Husayn and gave him aid. He himself remembers that very well. In the future, King Husayn should bear the responsibility for the consequences of economic harm to Jordan and for the mistakes he makes.

Concerning the EEC position, he said: "We want more pressure on the Baghdad regime."

Shaykh Sa'ad began his press conference with a statement telling the story of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said: "We were just as surprised by the Iraqi attack on Kuwait as you were. Before the attack some Arab leaders visited Kuwait and talked to us frankly and earnestly. They said that they had met with the Iraqi president in Baghdad and that when they asked him about the military concentrations on the borders be said that Iraq would not commit an aggression against Kuwait. Just as they heard and believed what he said, so did we. We did not deploy our [ground] forces, naval forces, or air force because we believed that, as head of state, he would keep the promises that he made to some Arab states.

He added: Some hours before the attack I had a meeting with the Iraqi president's deputy, then I went home. That night I was awakened by the defense minister, who said that the Iraqi forces had occupied some positions on the borders. I then moved to the operations room with some ministers and senior commanders to follow developments. We were able in a short time to mobilize our forces to face the attacking Iraqi forces. Our forces managed to check the Iraqi forces' advance, and the fighting between Kuwaiti and Iraqi forces continued until the end of that day, 2 August. The attacking Iraqi forces consisted of 150,000 men; 1,200 tanks; 1,000 armored cars; and hundreds of helicopters, missiles, and long-range artillery units. These forces entered in accordance with a plan drawn up by the Iraqi president and his clique with the aim of occupying government centers and establishments including the amir's palace. These forces soon reached the amir's palace and began to shell it. Helicopters landed troops on the roof of the palace. Then they went to my residence and shelled it. Thank

God, the amir was not in the palace. I was in the operations room myself. The aim of the plan drawn up, as I have said, by Saddam Husayn and his clique was primarily to create a government vacuum.

He added: The Iraqi forces then spread through Kuwait and occupied government offices, the Foreign and Information Ministries, and other locations. The Security Council then immediately convened, condemned the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait, and called for unconditional withdrawal and for the restoration of the legitimate authorities. The Arab foreign ministers conference, which was in session in Cairo at the time, also discussed the matter, and an Islamic foreign ministers conference followed. The Security Council adopted resolutions 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, and 665 condemning the invasion and calling on Saddam Husayn to withdraw his forces from all the Kuwaiti territories unconditionally.

He also said: Anyone who knows the scale and quality of the weaponry brought in and used by the Iraqi forces knows that the invasion of Kuwait was a prelude to an invasion of Saudi Arabia, particularly since the Iraqi forces got to within two km of the Saudi borders. It was then that King Fahd realized that an invasion of Saudi Arabia was a possibility. The Iraqi president said that he had no intention of attacking Saudi territory, but the Saudi authorities did not believe it. President Husni Mubarak then called for an Arab summit conference in Cairo, and everyone agreed. Saudi Arabia asked for moral and military support and the forces began to arrive in the Kingdom. To this day, the president of the Iraqi regime most insolently and obdurately refuses to implement the Security Council resolutions. There is an international consensus condemning Saddam Husayn and the aggression and supporting the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti authorities represented by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. In addition to his occupation of Kuwait, Saddam Husayn arrested foreign nationals in Kuwait—men, women, and children—in violation of human values and ethics. The whole world has condemned the Iraqi action and urged Saddam Husayn to release these people, but his aim was to put pressure on these states.

The press conference was attended by more than 50 European and American media correspondents.

During the press conference Shaykh Sa'ad reaffirmed his and the government's eagerness to help Kuwaitis living abroad because of the Iraqi invasion. He said: I feel reassured about their living conditions. The state will look after them socially and financially and will provide for their welfare and education.

He also said that the day before yesterday he met with a large number of Kuwaitis in London and agreed with them on the necessary measures for their comfort.

Qatar

Amir Chairs Cabinet Weekly Meeting

NC1209153490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 12 Sep (WAKH)—The state of Qatar has reiterated its fixed stand which calls for the immediate withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from the state of Kuwait, restoring the legitimate Kuwaiti Government, respecting the civilians residing in occupied Kuwaiti territories and safeguarding their lives and properties, and not recognizing the subsequent results of that occupation.

The Qatari Council of Ministers, chaired by Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, reaffirmed this today during its weekly meeting.

The council was briefed on the outcome of the 36th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] which was held in Jeddah on 5 and 6 September, as well as on the GCC measures on the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The Council of Ministers expressed its satisfaction with the outcome of the Helsinki summit meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on 9 September, and the two leaders' determination to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and to implement all the UN resolutions in this connection.

The council appealed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to respond to calls by peace-loving nations to protect the world against the hazards of war and destruction through the complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait in order to safeguard security and stability in the entire Gulf region.

The council welcomed the resolution of the emergency meeting of the Arab League council in Cairo on 10 September to transfer the Arab League General Secretariat's headquarters to Cairo, in accordance with the Arab League Council's decision in Tunis last March. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Culture Minister Arrives 12 Sep

NC1209174590 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Doha, 12 Sep (WAKH)—The Tunisian minister of culture and information, Ahmed Khaled, arrived today on a two-day visit, in the course of tour of the region.

He said in a statement to QATARI NEWS AGENCY that he would deliver a verbal message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, related to consultations and exchange of views towards the Gulf crisis and ways to find a solution for it, in addition to bilateral relations between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia

Forces Commander on Morale, Gas Mask Supply

LD1209125490 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The commander of the Peninsula Shield Forces [force set up by the Gulf Cooperation Council member-countries] and commander of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz brigade, staff Major General (Turki Ibn Hidijan al-Nufay'i), has said the Saudi Armed Forces are in full readiness to defend the homeland and the sanctities and to protect the sons of the Kingdom from any aggressor who may attempt to harm this sacred country.

In a statement to Arab and foreign journalists, and correspondents of international news agencies and television stations who toured the front line today, he (Nufay'i) said the Saudi forces enjoyed high morale because they adhered to God's book and his messenger's teachings, and because they fought to exact justice and ward off the aggressor. Maj. Gen. (Nufay'i) stated the Saudi forces possessed very advanced weapons that could cause great losses to aggressors if they let themselves be seduced by the idea of attacking the Kingdom.

Talking about the Peninsula Shield Forces, he said these forces had been strengthened in men and equipment in implementation of the resolutions adopted by their highness and excellency the defense ministers of the GCC member-countries at their recent meeting in Jeddah.

In reply to a question on Saddam Husayn's forces' possession of chemical weapons, he said: We do not fear such weapons because we put our trust in God, and because our supreme command has provided us with the means that would neutralize the effectiveness of the [chemical] weapons. Every man in the armed forces has been supplied with masks to protect them from such weapons. [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Praises Helsinki Summit

LD1009185990 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, chaired the meeting of the Council of Ministers this afternoon, Monday, 10 September, in Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir said in a statement to SPA that at the onset of today's meeting, the Council reviewed the most important events on the Arab scene and expressed continued interest in studying the current situation in the Arab Gulf region in light of Arab and international developments, especially regarding the declared positive results of the Helsinki summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday, a summit that world political circles have unanimously agreed realized the desired objectives in the context of solutions to and options for the crisis in the Arab Gulf, in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council, and in implementation of Arab and Islamic decisions.

In this respect, his royal highness Prince Abdullah Bin 'Abd-al-' Aziz spoke about his personal impressions of events, praising the positions taken by some Arab states toward the current crisis, and stressing the role played by he information media, with all their positive and negative trends, and the extent of the influence of this on Arab and international public opinion. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Statement on U.S. Forces Stay

LD1209145790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1350 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Sep (SPA)—Some media channels have disseminated an intriguing report, citing AFP, which says that Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal made a statement to a delegation of European parliamentarians on the possible effect on Saudi society of a prolonged stay by the U.S. forces deployed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Denying this, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said to SPA today: This report is completely fabricated. It is untrue as a whole and in detail.

Fahd Receives Support Message From Sudanese Party

LD1009194190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from Mubarak al-Mahdi in which he said: I am addressing you again on behalf of the former [Sudanese] Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi, in my own name, on behalf of the Sudanese people in general, and the masses of Ansar and the Ummah Party in and outside Sudan in particular, to affirm to you our backing and support for the resolutions of the emergency Arab summit in Cairo which rejected the invasion of Kuwait and demanded withdrawal of Iraqi troops, reinstatement of the legitimate government, and the dispatching of Arab forces to support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in confronting Iraqi threats.

We reaffirm our standing by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—King, Government, and people—to defend sovereignty and justice, and to remove the injustice caused to sisterly Kuwait. We are following with great dismay and sorrow the campaigns propagated by some people against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in an attempt to undermine its pan-Arab and Islamic role. However, the noble Arab and Islamic peoples appreciate the Kingdom's persistent and uninterrupted role of serving Islam and Muslims. We and other know that the two holy mosques are pure and protected, and will not be touched except by the foreheads of those kneeling in prayer, as we believe in your sincere guardianship and patronage.

Mahdi added: In this context we would like to apologise for the shameful stance adopted by the Khartoum government in refusing to condemn the aggression on Kuwait, in opposing the Arab participation in defending the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's territory, and in sponsoring hired marches against the Kingdom in Khartoum. That stance is a falsification of the stance of the Sudanese people, who stand by their brothers in the Kingdom and Kuwait with all their feelings and capabilities. We find consolation in that in the near future the Sudanese people will take up their noble role beside their brothers in the Arab and Islamic arena. May God steady your steps on the path of justice. You cannot be defeated if God supports you. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother Mubarak al-Mahdi, representative of Sayyid Sadiq al-Mahdi, and spokesman for the Ummah Party

Prince Sultan Meets Afghan Mujahidin Leader

LD1209193890 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general—today received Professor Abdorrasul Saiyaf, prime minister of the Islamic interim government of the Afghani Mujahidin and the delegation accompanying him.

Kuwaiti Officials Receive UK Delegation

LD1009145490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 10 Sep (SPA)—Kuwait Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim today received British MP Gerald Kaufman, in charge of foreign relations in the British Labour Party, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended on the Kuwaiti side by Planning Minister Sulayman al-Mutawwa' and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Yahya al-Sumayt. Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Finance Minister Shaykh Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi this morning had also a meeting with Mr. Gerald Kaufman and the delegation accompanying him.

They discussed the latest events and developments in the light of the current situation in the region.

Kuwait Amir Receives Niger Minister

LD0609210390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1926 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, his highness the amir, has received Mr. Mahamane Sani Bako, the Nigerien cq minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. Bako handed the amir a message from General Ali Saibou, the Nigerien president.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Receives Tunisian, Mauritanian Messages

NC1109160090 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Sep (WAKH)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali dealing with the Arab situation and the Gulf developments.

It was conveyed by Tunisian Information Minister Ahmed Khaled during a meeting with Shaykh Zayid.

Shaykh Zayid also received a letter from Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya dealing with the Gulf situation and bilateral ties. The message was delivered by Mauritanian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Guidi Ould Bounam.

President Receives Kuwaiti Amir's Message

NC1209171990 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Sep (WAKH)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received a message from H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, dealing with developments in the region.

The message was conveyed by Kuwaiti Education Minister Dr. 'Abdallah Yusuf al-Ghunaym, during a meeting with the UAE president here today.

Military Training Compulsory for College Students

NC0409162090 Cairo MENA in English 1545 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 4 (MENA)—The UAE [United Arab Emirates] university has decided to make military training compulsory for all its students and consider it a condition of graduation.

This came in a statement by Shaykh Nuhayyan Bin-Mubarak, the university rector, in which he said that the university began to lay down arrangements for starting military training for students in coordination with the UAE armed forces.

Yemen

UN Sent Report on Economic Impact of Crisis

JN1109141890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The Presidential Council held a meeting this morning under the chairmanship of brother Liuetenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. [passage omitted]

The council also reviewed a report forwarded to the United Nations on the extent of the damage inflicted on our country as a result of the Gulf crisis. The damage is estimated at $1.684 billion. The council tasked the prime minister and the foreign minister with informing the Security Council, the UN secretary general, and the sisterly and friendly states, of this damage. It also asked the competent ministries to present proposals on how to deal with the impact of this damage on the local level. [passage omitted]

Salih Addresses Bush, Gorbachev on Summit

JN1109174990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, addressed two messages to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush on 6 September on the occasion of their meeting in Helsinki today.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council began his messages by conveying the Yemeni people's greetings and best wishes on the occasion of their historic meeting on which they and all peace-loving nations pin great hopes at these critical moments in the future of security and stability—not only in the Arab region, but in the entire world.

In his messages to the Soviet and U.S. presidents, the brother president added: On this occasion, I also seize this opportunity to stress Yemen's position on the current crisis since its outbreak. We have stressed the need for the Iraqi troops' withdrawal from Kuwait and the resolution of the problems resulting from the crisis through peaceful and brotherly dialogue between the two countries—within the Arab household. Although the option of an Arab solution was overtaken by upholding an international one in tackling this crisis, which—in our opinion—has aggravated the crisis and led to the arrival of foreign forces to the region and the massing of an arsenal of the vehicles of destruction and devastation unprecedented since World War II, we in the Republic of Yemen are still fully convinced that a peaceful solution can only be achieved through an Arab framework acceptable to the Kuwaiti and Iraqi sides. In accordance with this, it greatly concerns me to approach you stressing the great importance of giving Arab efforts a chance. This will not happen, in our opinion, without your public assertion that the peaceful solution of this crisis is your only option. We are confident of your desire to do so.

In his letters to the two leaders Gorbachev and George Bush, the brother president said: As I send to you this letter, which stems from the principles of friendship and mutual respect on which our cordial bilateral relations are based, it does not escape me to say that the Middle East region, of which the Republic of Yemen is an inseparable part, will remain a hotbed of conflicts and wars threatening world security and peace unless the international community, led by your excellencies and the rest of the UN Security Council permanent member states, deal with the problem of the Palestinian Arab people and the Israeli-held Arab territories with the same responsibility with which it is dealing with the current crisis. I would like to affirm to you our viewpoint that a comprehensive solution to problems that have been outstanding for several years can only be achieved by calling for an international conference for peace in the Middle East in order to reach solutions based on justice, equality, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; ensuring the security and safety of all states in the region; and ending all forms of Israeli occupation of Arab territories—an occupation whose illegality was stressed by several unimplemented UN Security Council resolutions.

In his letters, the brother president said: My strong confidence in your concern for security and peace to prevail in the region stems from the fact that you have achieved a state of security, peace, and confidence in the future in many parts of the world over the past few years, thanks to the fruitful cooperation and sincere understanding between the Soviet Union and the United States. Some people never imagined or dreamed of such a development. You will therefore not deny the Middle East nations the opportunity to live in peace and security, just like the rest of the world nations.

Brother President Lieutenant 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih concluded his messages to the Soviet and U.S. presidents by saying: This is what I am careful to convey to you as you are about to hold the Helsinki summit, because security, peace, and justice in this world are entrusted to you, and I am confident of your full ability to shoulder this responsibility.

Al-Bid Meets UAE Ambassador, Explains Stance

JN1109102390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, received at his office today Brother Sayf Maktum al-Mansuri, United Arab Emirates [UAE] ambassador.

The brother vice chairman explained to the brother ambassador our country's firm position toward developments [not further specified], and stressed the need to resolve the Gulf crisis through peaceful means within an Arab context, and to spare the region the catastrophe of military confrontation. He also stressed our country's concern and readiness to exert whatever efforts required to help contain the crisis peacefully, and that the Arab solution is the only key to resolve the crisis.

The meeting also reviewed relations between our country and the UAE and means to improve and strengthen them for the benefit of the two fraternal people and the Arab nation's causes.

UAE Minister Arrives With Message for Salih

JN1109191790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, minister of state for foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], arrived in Sanaa today. During his visit he will convey a messsage to Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, from UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

He was received by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, a representative from the Presidential Protocol Department, and Brother Sayf Maktum al-Mansuri, UAE ambassador in Sanaa.

Departs Sanaa

JN1109194090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received in his office today brother Rashid 'Abdallah, the United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of state for foreign affairs. Brother Rashid 'Abdallah conveyed to the brother president a message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the brotherly UAE, dealing with the developments in the region and bilateral issues between the two brotherly countries.

The brother president gave him a message in reply to his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid. The meeting was attended by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister, and the UAE ambassador in Sanaa.

Brother Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Sanaa this afternoon. He was seen off by Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister, the UAE ambassador in Sanaa, and a representative of the Republican Presidency Protocol.

Salih Receives Brazilian Presidential Envoy

JN1309090290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received Brazilian President Fernando de Mello Collor's envoy, in his office today. The envoy delivered a message to the president from the Brazilian president on bilateral relations and the current situation in the region.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani.

Tariq 'Aziz Comments on Bush Speech to Congress

JN1209131390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—Commenting on the speech U.S. President George Bush has delivered at the U.S. Congress, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stated the following to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

The U.S. President's speech contains numerous paradoxes and aspects that should be exposed. In his speech, the U.S. President confirms the U.S. imperialist drive to lead the world and impose a dictatorial U.S. rule on it. The U.S. President must know that the world does not recognize this leadership. If some agent or weakling governments agree to take orders from the U.S. Administration, the majority of world peoples, foremost among which are the Arab nation and the Islamic peoples, categorically reject this and insist on maintaining their independence and free will.

As regards the position on Iraq, the U.S. President has chosen to lie and misrepresent facts and realities when he repeated the U.S. allegations on Iraq's intentions against Saudi Arabia and offered them as a pretext for his military campaign in the region.

Bush has not provided pieces of evidence to corroborate these allegations. Besides, U.S. satellites know the truth. Furthermore, U.S. military quarters affirmed in several statements that the Iraqi military arrangements are defensive. This shows that the U.S. President belittles the minds of the U.S. people as well as those of the Congress members. We once again challenge the U.S. President to provide material evidence corroborating this allegation. Besides, we also request the other countries which have access to means of filming using satellites, particularly the USSR, to take part in the process of providing evidence or denying this allegation.

In his speech, President Bush sought to frighten the U.S. people and Congress about Iraq's possession of 20 percent of the world's oil reserves.

Before 2 August 1990, Iraq possessed 10 percent of the world's oil reserves. It threatened no one, neither the United States nor other countries. As a matter of fact, a third of the Iraqi oil was exported to the United States itself at the time. What would change, then, if Iraq's oil reserves reach 20 percent of the world's oil reserves? The U.S. President cannot provide evidence to substantiate his allegations, which seek to frighten his people about this fact, particularly considering that the Iraqi oil policy has been well known over the past two decades to be responsible and fair.

President Bush's speech in this framework raises a number of dangerous questions about what possibilities and reserves the world countries own. President Bush's logic presumes the presence of degrees of permission on owning reserves of materials which are important to the rest of the world, such as iron, coal, gas, or the capacity to produce cereals. If President Bush's logic is applied, it would include numerous countries such as Canada, Australia, and other countries in Africa and Asia, and even Europe. Therefore, the U.S. President must explain his objectives behind promoting his logic. Does the world, for example, seek to partition the United States so that it will cease to have the capacity of exporting half the world's wheat? In any case, wheat is more important to humanity than gasoline.

And once again, the U.S. President repeats the lies of his employees in the region, such as Husni Mubarak. We challenge Bush and the whole world to prove that we lied to anyone during the 22 years of our leadership of Iraq. We explained the circumstances of the lie propagated by Husni Mubarak after his visit to Baghdad through confirmed statements. We proved that Husni Mubarak involved Bush and his allies. Does Bush insist on continuing this involvement, although he very well knows the opinion of His Majesty King Husayn, who visited Iraq at the same time and dealt with the same topic?

Finally, the foreign minister said: The U.S. President's insistence on collecting money from countries to finance the aggressive American military campaign in the region affirms and reveals the U.S. policy of stealing the riches of the Gulf and using them on the broadest scale to serve its goals of imperialism. In emphasizing the budget and other issues, President Bush is cheating the U.S. people, as well as the people of the countries he is taking money from. So why does Bush not halt his aggressive military campaign, withdraw his troops, and decrease U.S. expenses? Why doesn't he urge his allies to spend the funds he is collecting for aggression on developing needy countries—some of which are the very countries in the region where he has sent his military troops to threaten and control—which would really bolster security and stability?

The minister concluded his statement by saying that the U.S. President's speech is typical of a speech by a vain, imperialist ruler who wants to impose his hegemony on the world through lies and forgery of facts and goals. Events will prove that this course is wrong and will fail. The people cannot be deceived by such attempts, and their determination for freedom, independence, and justice will triumph.

Editor Reacts to Speech

JN1209121090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—The INA international affairs editor has commented on U.S. President George Bush's speech before the joint session of the U.S. Congress today. He said: A first reading of Bush's speech indisputably proves that the aggressive, evil trend is still controlling this man's mentality. He is also haunted by the complex of the United States' new position with the end of the cold war and the desire of the United States and the personal desire of Bush himself to unilaterally lead the world. Despite his talk about morals, civilized values, and international law, however, Bush has proved that he adopts double standards. This has become clearer after he ignored several issues in the Arab region and the world such as the Palestine question, the Lebanese issue, and the issue of the other occupied Arab territories. He also ignored the policy of interference and aggression that the United States is used to adopting, such as its interference in Grenada, Panama, and Nicaragua. This indicates that Bush was trying to appear as the defender of right and justice at a time when he is exercising a policy of aggression, hegemony, and economic control of the world, and a policy of depriving Third World states the opportunity of scientific and technological progress to maintain the big gap between what he calls the civilized world and the Third World.

He wanted to appear to others to be implementing the resolutions of the international community and expressing the interests of the United States because the Congressmen and the U.S. society cast doubts on the usefulness of the U.S. forces' presence in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] on the pretext that Iraqi Forces are threatening to invade Saudi territories. At any rate, in keeping with the language Bush used to defend his position on the so-called Gulf crisis and his hasty intervention in the region, he quoted the strongest point from the Helsinki summit statement, namely an agreement of opinion between the two parties to the summit. This indisputably proves that there are tangible doubts about how far Bush will succeed in dragging others to his stands.

Fear of the future—we mean the serious consequences of the huge foreign and Western forces' presence in a sensitive region—and his concern over military involvement have encouraged him to speak about the "glory" he thinks is awaiting him and the United States. This is why he began to beg U.S. public opinion to shoulder the burdens of the budget deficit, which has reached $232 billion, and to get ready to shoulder the burdens of new taxes and other burdens in the defense budget with the aim of paying the expenses of the continued presence of U.S. forces in the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula.

Bush's statement viewing Iraq as having too much oil, 20 percent of the world's oil reserve, indicates a selfish position and imperialist greed. He ignores the fact that the United States is the biggest grain producer in the world. It has always used grain to pressure and blackmail Third World peoples, foremost of which are the Arab countries, without considering these peoples' need for progress and an honorable life.

Every move to promote Bush's position on Kuwait is viewed by the Iraqis and the Arab masses as impudent interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. However, Bush must understand that threats, wagering on the time factor, and blackmail through American decisions issued by the Security Council will not make Iraq retreat in the face of U.S. arrogance under any circumstances.

Concluding his comment, the INA international affairs editor said: Bush must also understand that leader Saddam Husayn and Iraq's people are one and that his playing with words and claiming that he is not against the Iraqi people are ridiculous and disgusting. What Bush must do is leave the region and leave Najd and Hejaz to their people and the Muslims' sanctities to the Muslims, whom he has provoked everywhere in the world. Otherwise, we will teach him an unforgettable lesson, a lesson in steadfastness, heroism, and capability. He knows that all the Arabs and Islamic masses and all the good and honorable people in the world are with us and are against U.S. imperialism and arrogance and its tampering with peoples' rights and potential, as President Saddam Husayn said.

However, if the United States and its small allies and agents do not respond to our initiative, we as well as all the good people of the Arab nation and the great Iraqi people will resist its evil trends and aggressive plans. We will achieve victory with God's help and the evil ones will regret their actions after they leave the region defeated, cursed, and humiliated.

Because he knows that any new tax policy will provoke U.S. public opinion, he has begun to hint that his allies in the region are ready to extend aid, trying to tell U.S. public opinion that what is happening in the region and all the burdens of the American taxpayer are, in the final analysis, in the interest of the United States and its leading role in the world that will result in glory for it. How ridiculous!

Bush went even further in his maneuvering and said that forces from Islamic countries are participating with the U.S. forces deployed in Najd and Hejaz. This is a deception, a lie, and misleads the U.S. and world public opinion and is aimed at completely justifying the U.S. presence in and invasion of the holy Arab and Islamic lands.

Three Jurists Groups Form To Try Bush

JN1209124090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—The formation of three groups of jurists was announced here today. The three groups will be entrusted with preparing indictment memorandums regarding the trial of U.S. President George Bush. These memorandums deal with the legal, political, and economic aspects of the bill of indictment.

In a statement to INA, Hamid Salih al-Rawi [vice chairman of Iraqi lawyers], said that the joint preparatory committee, which is composed of the Iraqi Bar and Jurists Unions and the Iraqi Human Rights Committee, has received approval from the heads of lawyers' unions in Jordan, the Republic of Yemen, Libya, Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia, and Palestine, in addition to the heads of the national committees for supporting the Iraqi people in Tunisia, Jordan, and the Republic of Yemen, to participate in the court proceedings as members of the prosecution commission to try U.S. President George Bush. He added that the committee has prepared invitations for a number of Arab and international figures to participate in the trial that will be held during the first half of October. He added that the preparatory committee has received several complaints against the U.S. president from various sectors regarding his crimes against the Arab people, his genocide attempts in various parts of the world, and his current crime of imposing a comprehensive economic blockade against Iraq to include foodstuffs, medicine, and baby milk.

The clauses of the bill of indictment also includes U.S. President George Bush's aggression against and occupation of Grenada and his ruthless killing of women and children there; his flagrant aggression against Panama; his financial, political, and military support for the Zionist entity's genocide crimes in the occupied Palestinian territories; and his dispatching of U.S. troops to occupy Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and to desecrate the Islamic sanctities represented by the holy mosque and the prophet's tomb. The bill of indictment also includes his plans to carry out an aggressive war against Iraq and the instigation of other states to participate in this war; the massing of armies and fleets in the Arabian Gulf, which is a crime against peace for which he should be punished in accordance with the sixth principle in the international law that is recognized by the charter of the Nuremberg Court adopted by the United Nations in 1950; the imposition of blockade against Iraq by force to starve its people and to kill its children, women, and the elderly; and the prevention of foodstuffs, medicines, and baby milk that conflicts with the UN Charter and all humanitarian laws.

On 1 September, the Iraqi lawyers decided to set up a popular tribunal to try U.S. President George Bush in accordance with the International Declaration of Human Rights.

Workers March Near Embassy, Burn Bush in Effigy

JN1109060490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2325 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Workers masses in Baghdad have denounced the Zionist and U.S. presence in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and its flagrant threat to Iraq During a mammoth demonstration that headed toward the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, in which thousands of workers took part, the workers denounced the economic blockade that the United States is imposing by force against Iraq.

Through their slogans, the workers expressed their determination to defend Iraq's territory and sovereignty against any foreign aggression it might be exposed to. They renewed allegiance to leader President Saddam Husayn. The workers condemned the actions of the betrayer [custodian] of the two holy mosques and his companion Husni Mubarak and their attempts to pave the way for the aggression against Iraq, and their exploitation of the imperialist and Zionist forces of invasion. The angry masses burned an effigy of George Bush and the U.S. flag. An Iraqi peasant used an axe to crush the heads of the effigies of treason, treachery, and aggression, the betrayer of the two holy mosques, Husni, and Bush, reminding the world of the victory the Iraqis achieved in the 1920 revolution [as heard].

U.S. Citizen Appears on TV, Praises Saddam

JN1309054190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—A U.S. citizen hosted by the Iraqi people has regretted his country's involvement in the events in the region and its military intervention in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula.

In an interview shown this evening on Baghdad Television, Mr. Golden Johnson [name as received] urged President George Bush to appear on a television debate with President Saddam Husayn to express viewpoints and search for a solution to the region's crisis away from the language of gunpowder.

Addressing Bush, the U.S. citizen wondered: "What are you afraid of? If you do not hold a dialogue, many innocent and good people in Iraq, as well as many Americans, will die."

Mr. Golden Johnson voiced appreciation for President Saddam Husayn's initiative to allow foreign women and children to leave Iraq. He criticized the step taken by the U.S. Administration and its allies to besiege Iraq and block the arrival of food, medicine, and baby milk. He urged the world's peoples to work for relations of amity and friendship.

Johnson addressed a message to his wife and daughter in which he sent his love and said: I will be back when everybody here is well.

Swiss Diplomats Arrive in Baghdad from Kuwait

LD1309105790 Bern International Service in English 1000 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] The two remaining Swiss diplomats in Kuwait have abandoned their embassy and arrived in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. [passage omitted] There are no Swiss citizens left in Kuwait.

Red Cross League To Send Medicine to Nation

JN1309062190 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Amman—Mr. Ibrahim al-Nuri, president of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, met with (Barr Stanback), secretary general of the International League of Red Cross and Crescent Societies in Amman yesterday. The INA correspondent in Amman said that Mr. Stanbak told al-Nuri that as of next week, the League will begin supplying Iraq with the medicines it needs. He pointed out that the League will send a representative to Baghdad to assess the needs of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society of medicines and other medical supplies.

Mr. al-Nuri told the INA correspondent that the various world Red Crescent and Red Cross societies have stressed the need to eliminate the specter of war and foreign military interventions from the Gulf. He added that these societies considered the prevention by the U.S. Administration of food and medicine from arriving to the children and people of Iraq a flagrant violation of the Geneva agreements of 1949.

Health Minister Protests Blockade to Counterparts

JN1109072990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has denounced the U.S. Administration's iniquitous, irresponsible, decision blocking Iraq-bound shipments of medicine, vaccines, children's milk, and other medical items.

In letters to the health ministers of all countries, the minister stressed that under no circumstances should economic sanctions cover foodstuffs and medicines and medical equipment, given their centrality to the health of the public, not least children and the elderly.

He noted that Iraq had led the way in fulfilling its humanitarian obligations in the aftermath of natural disasters irrespective of the political systems of government where they struck or any other considerations.

He appealed to his counterparts to move through their governments to terminate this illegal blockade against our people and to take a humanitarian, supportive stand against a disgraceful, unprecedented practice that contravenes UN norms and conventions.

Nutritional Value of Meat Substitutes Given

JN1009123990 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 7

[Text] Researchers, doctors, and dietitians affirm that meat need not be considered man's basic food and that eating cereals and legumes protects human beings from many diseases which in some cases could be the result of eating large amounts of meat over long periods of time.

In accordance with its 1990 scientific activities and health awareness program the Technical Medicine Institute in Baghdad, which is one of the most prominent institutes belonging to the Technical Institutes Committee, and through a program and series on healthy nutrition, has issued a scientific bulletin on the alternatives to meat and their nutritional values.

In an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH, Dr. Dhiya' Isma'il al-Dawri, dean of the Medical Institute, said that this bulletin spells out some of the alternatives to meat. He said scientific awareness is very important and that we are now going through a stage of pan-Arab awakening and great historic challenge of the imperialist forces and their dirty agents and followers.

Dr. al-Dawri said that research and studies have proved that a vegetarian diet could, from many points of view, be considered healthier. A great deal of evidence has lead to this deduction. It has been shown that the cholesterol level among vegetarians is lower than in non-vegetarians. Those who follow diets concentrating on vegetables, fruits, and vegetable produce are less vulnerable to diseases of the large intestine, cancer of the digestive system, and kidney stones.

He said: For a correct diet, a person's food should be balanced and should contain various food elements. These elements are proteins, fats, and carbohydrates, in addition to vitamins and minerals. For these elements to be present, food does not necessarily have to be expensive since the nutritional value of food does not depend on price, but on how meals are divided on how the these elements are distributed within the meals.

He said it is important to evaluate an individual's food intake since the consumption of meat should be moderate and alternatives should be sought to obtain protein with the same nutritional value as meat by mixing certain foods together.

The bulletin notes that proteins are the basic substance for generating body cells and for development as in the case of children who are in the development stage, and pregnant and lactating women. Adults do not need as much protein. An adult person needs about 50-80 grams per day, which can come from animal and vegetable protein. It is worth noting here that studies have proven that increased consumption, particularly of meat, increases the risk of intestinal and colon cancer. There is also a connection between the consumption of animal fats and heart disease and arteriosclerosis. In addition, the modern chemical additives that meat exporters add to meat affect the health of the individual.

Citizens must realize that legumes—chickpeas, lentils, kidney beans, purslane, and broad beans—are rich in protein and approximately equal the amounts present in meat and fish; however, they are cheaper. They are also the major source of protein in many countries of the world.

As for cereals—bread and rice—these too are considered a major source of protein. When these foods are combined in balanced proportions, they result in a good, highly nutritious meal. In this way too, one can obtain all the basic amino acids at the same time.

Commentary Says Thatcher Has 'Colonial Mentality'

LD1209212890 Baghdad International Service in English 2000 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher last week said that Iraqi leaders should be brought before a war crimes tribunal. In an apparent loss of self-control, Thatcher also said that the United States, Britain, and their allies should attack Iraq to end the Gulf crisis.

Losing (?her) human sense and obsessed with the colonial mentality, Thatcher knows very well who the war criminal is. Perhaps she wants to convince (?that while) she and Mr. Bush [words indistinct] and forces to the Gulf in defense of a just cause, at a time when everybody knows that they have come to occupy other people's land. Thatcher and company are in the Gulf to seize the region's oil wealth against the will of the Arab people. They want to revive [word indistinct] of (?hegemony) and to starve the children of Iraq to death.

Kuwait for sure is not another American estate or a city in Britain. The Kuwait unification with Iraq is a purely internal matter. In fact, the restoration of Kuwait is the healing of just one wound inflicted by colonial Britain in the many parts of the globe. What Iraq did was to restore part of it slashed by the British at the turn of the century. Iraq's restoration of Kuwait is not aimed at any other party and the issue of Kuwait is not something invented by President Saddam Husayn. Successive Iraqi governments had not ceased their legitimate call for the return of Kuwait to the motherland. [passage omitted]

And perhaps something more recent might (?enliven) Mrs Thatcher's memory. The jingoistic Iron Lady took her troops thousands of kilometers away to the Malvinas-Falklands, a land which [words indistinct] she launched a war against Argentina and occupied the islands and is still occupying them.

Thatcher is now fanning the flames of war against Iraq by promoting a military settlement to the Gulf crisis. If such a thing happened, thousands of troops and civilians will be killed on both sides and the stability and security of the whole region will be in danger, because Britain has launched more than a war after World War II because Thatcher is yet planning another war against Iraq. It is Mrs Thatcher who should be hauled before an international war crimes tribunal.

Ministry Spokesman on U.S., UK Policies

JN1109190490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1832 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—Commenting on the remarks made by the British foreign secretary in Tokyo, a Foreign Ministry spokesman told INA: The remarks underline the fact that Britain and the United States give no weight to the Security Council, and that they have used this council as a cover for their policies and objectives. In fact, first they act and then seek to drag the Security Council into adopting the fait accompli. This is what happened with the question of the boycott and economic blockade. Hurd's latest statement underlines the continuation of this snobbish policy against the entire humanity.

The spokesman added: As we explain these facts, we stress that the United States and Britain, which have succeeded in dragging the Security Council into bad positions, should know that Iraq will not bow to the imperialist policy of blackmail and threats and that justice will inevitably triumph.

Minister Details Free Oil Policy

JN1209141090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi met here today with the heads of the diplomatic missions of the Third World nations operating in Iraq to explain to them the details of the noble initiative launched by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on 10 September 1990.

The minister said that this noble gesture came to enhance the course and principles that have guided Iraq's policy in its dealing with the Third World nations since the inception of the 17-30 July Revolution and during the crises that plagued oil markets in the seventies, with a view to helping them overcome difficulties. He referred to the Iraqi position spelled out in this regard in the speech His Excellency President Saddam Husayn delivered at the [Nonaligned Movement] Havana summit of 1979.

The minister said that the current crisis caused by the difficulties these nations are facing in obtaining their crude oil requirements, the increases in oil prices, and the continued fluctuation of these prices will have repercussions on the Third World nations that would be more severe than those faced by other world states because of the lack of sufficient oil reserves. This does not apply to the industrial states, which depend on their high stock of reserves and have no consideration for developing nations, the minister added.

The oil minister affirmed Iraq's readiness to receive requests from these nations specifying the quantities and qualities of oil that they want to arrange for their [oil] shipments, which will be free of charge.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and a number of officials at the foreign and oil ministries.

Ramadan, PRC's Wu Xueqian Comment on Ties

JN0609184890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Beijing, 6 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Council Command [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, and Wu Xueqian, PRC State Council vice premier, held an expanded meeting here today.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan reviewed the historical and geographical facts which prove that Kuwait has been part of Iraq throughout history, and that British colonialism had cut away this part to deprive Iraq of its natural strategic location, so that this part would act as a nucleus for hatching plots against Iraq to achieve foreign interests and objectives. Ramadan explained the links of the chain of plots hatched in

Kuwait against Iraq as political and economic attempts to weaken Iraq after it became the Arab force that is qualified to defend the Arabs' legitimate rights, territories, and resources. He stressed that these links have something in common with the links of the chain of plots that are being hatched in the United States, Britain, and the Zionist entity through the hostile media campaign against Iraq.

The first deputy prime minister stressed that the UN Security Council should adopt just, objective resolutions and liberate itself from the U.S. hegemony that seeks to achieve its interests at the expense of the peoples' legitimate rights. He said that bias toward the U.S. means subservience to America's hostile policy and submission to its will. He affirmed Iraq's readiness to tear up all the unjust arbitrary resolutions and to defend all its legitimate rights.

The RCC member pointed to Iraq's serious positions on preventing the tragedies of war from befalling the region. He stressed that the departure of the foreign fleets and forces from Arab territories will save the region and the world from catastrophes that would threaten world peace and security, which the United States, its allies, and its agents in the region do not seek.

The PRC State Council premier stressed his country's rejection of foreign hegemony, interference in internal affairs, and the use of force. He pointed out that the PRC is concerned with settling conflicts through peaceful means. He said that his country has officially rejected the notion that the blockade imposed against Iraq include food and medicine, adding that his country will not abide by any measures in this regard. He emphasized that the PRC welcomes President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative. He expressed his country's readiness to contribute to any discussion of the ideas included in it that would realize justice in the international arena.

Taha Yasin Ramadan and Wu Xueqian expressed their satisfaction with cooperation between Iraq and the PRC, and stressed the importance of continuing meetings among the two countries' officials to find new prospects that will contribute to further promoting bilateral relations under all circumstances.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary, the Irrigation Ministry under secretary, the Iraqi ambassador in Beijing, the PRC deputy foreign minister, a number of officials, and the PRC ambassador to Iraq attended the meeting.

Algerian Islamic Front Leader Departs 9 Sep

JN0909182090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—Dr. Abbassi Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria, left Baghdad today following a four-day visit during which he met with President Saddam Husayn.

In a statement to the INA, Dr. Abbassi Madani said that he also met with a number of Iraqi officials to discuss the current conditions in the Arab region in light of the developments there.

He was seen off at the airport by 'Abdallah Fadil, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, and a number of Ministry officials.

Moroccan Envoy Arrives in Baghdad 11 Sep

JN1109195590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—Ahmed Rida Guedira, a special adviser to Moroccan King Hassan II and his personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Baghdad this evening. In a statement to INA, the Moroccan envoy said he is bringing a message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Moroccan King Hassan II on relations between the two sisterly countries and the current situation in the region.

The Moroccan envoy was received at the airport by Sadiq Sha'ban, the adviser at the presidential office, and the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Delivers Message to Saddam

JN1209124290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Ahmed Rida Guedira, a special adviser to His Majesty Moroccan King Hassan II, today. Guedira conveyed an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from His Majesty King Hassan II. The message deals with relations between the two fraternal countries and the current situation in the region.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Departs 12 Sep

JN1309090790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—Ahmed Rida Guedira, Moroccan King Hasan II's personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn and the king's special adviser, left Baghdad late this afternoon.

During the visit, the Moroccan envoy conveyed an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from his Majesty King Hasan II of Morocco on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region.

Italian Parliament Member Interviewed on Gulf

JN1309052590 Baghdad INA in English 0945 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 11, INA—Italian public opinion is against launching a war in general and aggression against Iraq in particular, said Mr. Mario Cabana [name as received], member of the external relations committee of the Italian parliament. The Italian government is among the Western countries which decided the send troops to the Gulf.

Mr. Cabana is also a leader and founder of the Italian Environment Movement. He is on a visit to Iraq and has already met with a number of top Iraqi officials including First Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Speaker of The National Assembly Mr. Sa'di Mehdi Salih, and Minister of Information and Culture Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

He told the BAGHDAD OBSERVER on Monday that Italian people are in favour of finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. He added that the positive results of his talks with Iraqi officials would contribute to understanding the real situation in the region on the part of Italian public opinion.

"Moreover, it will help consolidate peace feelings among our people and the peoples of the European community," he said.

As an indication of favouring peace the Italian people began to hold rallies and demonstrations in major Italian cities urging Western governments to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and not to resort to military force, said Mr. Cabana.

He added that the outcome of his visit would shape many ideas in his mind. "First of all. I will hold a news conference during which I will explain all aspects and matters related to the Gulf crisis in the light of my talks with Iraqi officials and according to my satisfaction with the real situation I acquainted myself with," he said.

Mr. Cabana will also submit a report to the Italian parliament and through it to the President and Government of Italy explaining to them all aspects of the Gulf issue.

The delegation will also organise public symposiums for youth and workers in Italian cities in order to acquaint Italian public directly with the facts, he said.

Mr. Cabana and members of the Italian parliamentary delegation expressed confidence that Iraqi leadership realises well that if war erupted it would have bad consequences on international peace. He added that, after holding talks with Iraqi officials, he realised the leadership and people of Iraq wish that war would not take place. They will not be the first to ignite it, he was told. Yet, he elaborated they are determined to defend themselves with all means available if they were to be attacked.

Mr. Cabana said that Iraqi leadership is keen to reach an honourable and just solution to the issue. He added that the Iraqi leadership expressed readiness to hold meetings on any level with world governments which presides over the European community now.

Therefore, we shall convey a message to the Italian and European peoples stressing that there are suitable circumstances for preventing war which would cause destruction not only to the Arab nation but also to Americans and Europeans.

Answering a question about his opinion of President Saddam Husayn's August 12 initiative, Mr Cabana said all problems in the Middle East should be treated and solved according to a unified criterion taking into consideration that the Middle East and Gulf crisis form a unified political and geographical structure.

Therefore, they should be all solved once and altogether. This is why I admire and appreciate President Husayn's initiative," said Mr. Cabana.

The initiative covers all issues in the region including the Palestinian issue. Lebanon and other occupied Arab territories. But negotiations towards finding peaceful solutions are impossible under the current situation of U.S. military buildup in Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf."

He said U.S. troops should leave the region immediately because their presence doesn't serve peace.

Departs 12 Sep

JN1309082090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—Mario Cabana [name as received], member of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Italian Parliament, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today following a visit to Iraq lasting eight days.

In a statement to INA, the Italian parliamentarian described President Saddam Husayn's initiative to supply Third World countries with free Iraqi oil as a humane gesture unique in modern history which will have positive results and an important political impact on these countries, which imperialism has kept economically subservient and backward.

The parliamentarian explained that President Saddam Husayn's noble gesture will break the chain of subservience and backwardness imposed on Third World countries.

He said that peace in the region can only be achieved through an Arab framework and that foreign intervention could spark a devastating war in the region and the whole world. He affirmed the need for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Arab gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula for the sake of achieving general peace.

Indian Delegation Told Kuwait 'Belongs' to Iraq

JN1109180290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1107 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih this morning received the Indian parliamentary delegation, led by member of parliament Eduardo Faleiro, which is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, the attendees discussed parliamentary relations between the National Assembly and the Indian Parliament and ways to promote them.

The National Assembly speaker also reviewed the serious developments that have overtaken the Arab Gulf region as a result of the U.S. and Zionist forces' invasion of Arab lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and their desecration of Arab and Muslim holy places.

The National Assembly speaker explained to the guest delegation the historical eras which bear out the fact that Kuwait belongs to Iraq and how British colonialism severed this dear part.

The Indian delegation asserted that peaceful dialogue is the only successful way to resolve the problem in the region.

Briefed on Oil Initiative

JN1109202390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, this evening received the Indian parliamentary delegation led by Eduardo Faleiro, member of the Indian parliament and of the Congress Party. Mr. Ramadan reviewed the historical stages that prove that dear Kuwait is the part of Iraq that was sliced by British colonialism. He stressed Iraq's natural right to its territory extending from Zakho to the sea.

Mr. Ramadan said that the U.S. presence in the region is aimed at achieving America's goals and ambitions through imposing its control over the oil fountainheads. He stressed that Iraq will foil this conspiratorial scheme against it and the Arab nation. Those that have been drawn in by the United States, he said, will reap damage to their interests; they will regret this and lose, because the Iraqis will defeat the United States.

Mr. Ramadan touched on President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August. He asserted that it is a just, rightful, and comprehensive initiative aimed at sparing the region the scourge of war and conflicts, and bringing about a lasting, comprehensive peace in the region.

The first deputy prime minister said that President Saddam Husayn's initiative yesterday to supply Third World countries with their oil needs free of charge is a humanitarian, principled, and ethical decision to ease the burden on the wronged and poor nations. He said that Iraq's position toward the peoples of the Third World is characterized by humanitarian, ethical principles.

Mr. Eduardo Faleiro lauded President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, describing it as wise, just, and aimed at achieving peace in the region.

The Indian parliamentarian also praised the humanitarian treatment received by the Indian nationals in Iraq. He said that those nationals explained to him that they receive good treatment from the Iraqi people, contrary to the lies and fabrications promoted by the Western and Zionist mass media.

'Aziz Comments on Tehran's Response to Talks

JN1009165390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today returned to Baghdad following a two-day visit to Tehran. He said the following to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY: This morning, I conveyed an oral message from leader President Saddam Husayn to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which confirmed the content of his excellency's initiatives, expressed in the letters he sent to the Iranian leadership, the latest of which was his excellency's message of 14 August 1990. This message paved the way for the establishment of comprehensive and lasting peace and ties of good-neighborliness between Iraq and Iran. I also held extensive talks yesterday with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the Iranian side made clear its positive response to the leader president's initiatives and to Iraq's desire to establish comprehensive and lasting peace and ties of good-neighborliness. He also said the two countries agreed to continue the talks. Both sides also agreed on a number of steps to normalize relations, he added.

It is to be recalled that the foreign minister arrived in Tehran yesterday at the head of a delegation comprising the oil minister; Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent representative to the UN's European headquarters in Geneva; and a number of high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials.

Saddam Briefed on 'Positive' Talks With Iran

JN1109162790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1554 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received the Iraqi delegation to the Iraqi-Iranian peace talks, led by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, which returned from Tehran following a two-day official visit.

The delegation also comprised Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim and Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent representative at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva.

The delegation leader and members presented to the president a report on their visit to Tehran and the positive talks they held with Iranian officials.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

More POW's Exchanged With Iran Return Home

29th Group

JN1209150190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Diyala, 11 Sep (INA)—The 29th group of Iraqi POW's arrived in the homeland today.

The returning prisoners were accorded an official, popular welcome in which popular and professional organizations and a big crowd of citizens took part.

Meanwhile, a new group of Iranian POW's, which Iraq decided to release in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's initiative, left Iraqi territory today.

30th Group

JN1309084990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The 30th batch of our prisoners of war [POW's] comprising 1,000 POW's arrived in Iraq via land early this morning. On dismounting the buses which tranported them to the national soil, the POW's in slogans and chants saluted the humanitarian initiatives launched by His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn to bring about a comprehensive and durable peace—initiatives which allowed them to return to their homeland and families in a dignified manner. Furthermore, they affirmed their constant readiness to continue to make sacrifices and defend the national soil, and its chaste sanctities.

In a related development, a new batch of Iranian POW's comprising 1,000 POW's whose release was ordered by Iraq in accordance with the provisions contained in the humanitarian initiative launched by His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn was handed over.

31st Group

JN1309094790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—The 31st group of Iraqi prisoners of war arrived in Iraq this afternoon via land. [passage omitted]

The returning prisoners of war were accorded a huge official and popular welcome in which popular organizations and large groups of citizens participated crowding the main roads and streets along which the convoy of our noble sons passed.

On the other hand, a new batch of Iranian prisoners of war which Iraq had decided to release, left the Iraqi territories today via land. This step is in implementation of what was contained in President Saddam Husayn's letter and humanitarian initiative.

Saddam Receives Air Force, Air Defense Officers

JN1209162890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1558 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—His Excellency President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has received a number of officers of the Air Force and Air Defense.

Shamir on U.S. Commitment to Israeli Security

TA1209131190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Israel today received the first load of Apache attack helicopters from the United States. They arrived at a gala ceremony attended by, among others, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Air Force Commander Avihu Bin-Nun. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the U.S. Apache helicopters come at a time when they are badly needed by Israel and when the Israeli Government is concerned over the risks currently in the region.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] First of all we are grateful to the United States, to the President of the United States, for receiving these helicopters, which are new for Israel and will enhance the capability of our Air Force to carry out its mission. The United States is obliged to maintain the qualitative edge of Israel in this part of the world, and we are together looking for ways to maintain it and assure it.

[Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami] How is the fact that the Arab countries are now getting very sophisticated American weaponry affecting the qualitative edge of Israel.

[Shamir] Of course this is one of the subjects of our talks with the United States authorities.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, the deals for these helicopters were signed seven months ago. What is the significance of them arriving now?

[Shamir] There is a significance that we are receiving it now when we need it badly, and this is only an omen for further equipment we will receive in the next weeks and months.

[Unidentified reporter] Can you say that the risk of war is greater now than it was a month ago?

[Shamir] There is a risk of war, of course, and we hope that there will not be war in this area, but we have to take in account the existing risks. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 12 September in a similar report adds that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that if somebody tries to harm Israel's security, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Air Force will succeed in deterring him. If this does not work, Israel will have to be victorious in the initial stages of the battle. Our army affairs reporter Karmela Menashe said that Mr. Shamir made the remarks at a ceremony at an Air Forces base in the south where the first two Apache assault helicopters Israel received from the United States were shown to the public. He praised the renewed signs of cooperation between the two countries.

["Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, the Air Force commander, said that these helicopters are of supreme importance in the wake of the Iraqi threat. The procurement of aircraft with sophisticated technology is strengthening the Air Force, he said."]

Levi Says Congressmen To Seek Debt Write-Off

TA1309071390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Congressmen have promised me that they will work toward writing off Israel's debts, just like Egypt's, Foreign Minister David Levi said yesterday evening in a speech before Likud Central Committee members. Our reporter Tziyon Nanus spoke with Minister Levi.

[Begin recording] [Nanus] During my talks in the United States, the foreign minister said, I raised the issue of writing off Israel's debts, just as Egypt's debts were written off. The Americans did not turn down my request; they promised to discuss it, and do so as soon as possible.

[Levi] The issue is not being put off; it will definitely be taken care of. The finance minister will travel to the United States in a few days and the matter will be discussed. The reaction was the same in Congress; several congressmen said that they would support Israel on this matter so that the attitude [toward Israel and Egypt] will be the same.

[Nanus] Foreign Minister Levi also discussed with the U.S. Administration the issue of guarantees for immigrant housing. The United States made the guarantees conditional on the money's not being used for settlement in the territories. During my visit, the foreign minister asserted, we began discussing a compromise.

[Levi] We talked and are preparing a formula that will be consolidated over the next few days. This is what we agreed upon, and the issue will be resolved to everybody's satisfaction.

[Nanus] In his speech before Likud Central Committee members, Levi described his visit to the United States as a great success. He said that a very friendly atmosphere prevailed.

[Levi] There was an interesting moment when Mr. Bush asked how I felt, and said he had heard that I had not been well. I told him that I felt excellent, and as you know me, I asked him to give me his hand to shake—he extended his hand, I squeezed it and believe me, he felt it! [laughter].

[Nanus] David Levi apparently had not had the time to get acquainted with internal issues. He refused to comment on the Der'i affair and said he still had to study the proposed economic package.

U.S. Bid for Soviet Role in Talks Being Probed

TA1309094590 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Sep 90 p 7

[Report by political reporter Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Israeli representatives in the United States have been asked to investigate reports that the U.S. Administration supports the idea of an international conference on the Israeli-Arab conflict with the participation of the USSR.

Policymakers in Jerusalem are concerned about reports that President George Bush promised Mikhail Gorbachev in Helsinki to include the USSR in the process to find a settlement for the region in exchange for Soviet support in finding a solution to the Persian Gulf crisis.

On the basis of reports reaching Jerusalem, it appears that the White House is showing a readiness to include the USSR in the peace process in the region and to adopt the Soviet concept about convening an international conference. The U.S. State Department, on the other hand, has expressed reservations about the idea.

Foreign Minister David Levi, who returned from the United States yesterday, briefed the prime minister on his talks in Washington.

"The USSR's aim of convening an international conference really means yielding to Saddam Husayn," Levi said on his return home.

PRC Sports Team Arrives on Official Visit

TA1309111690 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 12 Sep 90

[Communicated by the Israel Tennis Association]

[Text] The Chinese national tennis team, numbering 7 players, arrived in Israel yesterday evening. This is the first official Chinese delegation to visit Israel. These are also the first Chinese athletes to visit Israel since the establishment of the State. The Chinese team will play against the Israeli team in Davis Cup competition over three days, beginning Thursday, 13.9.90. Preceding Friday's game will be an opening ceremony. Attending the ceremony will be President Hayim Herzog, the minister of tourism, who is sponsoring the event, mayors, members of Knesset, and others.

SHAS Council Recommends Remaining in Coalition

TA1309055690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party's Council of Torah Sages has called on Prime Minister Shamir and others in the government to stop the public nature of, and the leaks into, the investigation into Interior Minister Arye Der'i. The council voiced its backing for Der'i, but recommended that the party remain in the coalition. [passage omitted]

1 Million Soviet Immigrants Expected by 1992

TA1309092690 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Amir Neumann]

[Text] Some 400,000 Soviet immigrants are expected to come to Israel during 1991, and between 400,000 and 650,000 in 1992. Based on these estimates, about 1 million immigrants are expected over the next two years, contrary to earlier forecasts that said it would take five years to reach such a figure. That report was given to the Ministerial Committee on Aliyah.

The sources who gave the report said the figures were based on the number of exit visas issued in Moscow and that the level of real emigration would be decided by the political situation in the USSR, the ability to find travel routes to deal with such a wave, and the success of the immigrants' absorption in Israel.

Ministry Orders Closure of Arab Newsletter

TA1309101690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Sep 90 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] The Interior Ministry has ordered a Palestinian news service in East Jerusalem to stop publishing its daily newsletter, issued to several news and human rights agencies, on the grounds that it is publishing a newspaper without a license.

The Sanibal news service, which provides information on clashes between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops and residents of the territories, was accused of publishing a newspaper "without a license and in contradiction to the Press Order" in a letter from Eliyahu Suissa, Jerusalem District Representative.

Sanibal insists that its one page newsletter is not a newspaper, is not sold to the general public and is distributed strictly in accordance with directives from the military censor.

The directors of Sanibal are currently out of the country, but employees said Monday night they would suspend distribution of the newsletter until the "mistake is rectified.

Press Comments on Results of Helsinki Summit

TA1009175290

[Editorial Report] Israel's major newspapers on 10 September offer profuse comment on and analysis of the Helsinki summit between U.S. President Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev. The general tone in most of the items is that the summit can at best be regarded as a partial success and that the news conference that followed it sabotaged a lot of the achievements—both in bilateral terms and in terms of the message to Iraqi strongman Saddam Husayn—that could have been made had the two leaders sufficed with the joint communique alone. It is largely agreed that the military option has become a more remote prospect due to Bush's reluctance and the strong opposition to it presented by Gorbachev, whose consent is necessary because the United States, while it may be the last superpower, cannot stage such a gigantic operation singlehanded. The Israeli press generally agrees that Israel—for all its glee over the fact that Bush blocked the attempt to link the Gulf crisis to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—must remember that it will be called upon to offer a solution soon, and must be on guard lest it is asked to pay Bush's bill to the countries that helped him in the current crisis.

In a page 4 editorial entitled "Summit in the Clouds," Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English opines that "Saddam Husayn cannot be unhappy about yesterday's Helsinki summit," because "the impact of threats in the joint statement" ultimately "proved futile" in driving home the message that "aggression does not pay." That is because of the "Soviet reluctance to join in concerted action." By "continuing to advocate an international conference to cure all the region's ills," Gorbachev attempted to "continue the traditional Soviet role of ally of Iraq, but he is restrained by his desperate need for American aid, the size and quality of which, he well knows, will be determined by the degree of Soviet cooperation on international issues." Since the message from Helsinki was ambiguous, at best, and as the international "embargo's impact has as yet hardly been felt," the Iraqis will likely "be able to withstand the siege for a long time." The world appears to be receptive to a notion of some kind of Saddam-style "compromise" in Kuwait. "It will not be easy" for "even superpowers to convince bullies that aggression does not pay."

The front-page "analysis" by Tzvi Goren in Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew entitled "The New Alliance" notes the "new verbal manifestation of the alliance between the superpowers on a single, well-defined issue" in a "resolute bid to bring about an end to Iraq's aggression." The "threat" concerning future steps was "subtle, but nevertheless sufficiently clear." Consequently the "joint communique" is the crowning glory of the summit. "Its greatest significance lies in the opportunity, perhaps the last one, given to all the sides to emerge from the crisis without bloodshed. Once again the clear interest is to make diplomacy win over military might."

Sha'ul Ben-Hayim, writing from Helsinki under the headline "Mixed Messages to Saddam Husayn" in Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on page A2, claims that the Iraqi dictator got "conflicting and confusing" messages from the joint Bush-Gorbachev news conference, which seem to erase the import of the "firm joint statement" that preceded it. His impression is that "only Bush showed determination" by announcing that the military option was not discussed. The ambivalent signals in the press conference "raise the question of whether the joint statement counts at all," given that "its verbal adamancy hid hesitant Soviet positions." Gorbachev "demonstrated excessive zeal for a diplomatic solution." "Were it not for the press conference, the very firmly worded communique would have given Saddam Husayn something to fear."

Analyst 'Amos Gilbo'a, a former Arab affairs adviser to the prime minister, in his "situation analysis" entitled "The Outcome of the Summit Gave Saddam a Time-Out" on page A4 of MA'ARIV, concludes that "the Bush-Gorbachev summit constituted no turning point in the Gulf crisis, did not launch a new phase of stepped-up pressure on Iraq, and ultimately failed to describe, in practical terms, how Saddam would be forced out of Kuwait." In fact, "it left the crisis as it is and provided an unlimited time-out for its peaceful solution." Though Saddam may not "be pleased" with the common U.S.-USSR goal of "shooing" him out of Kuwait, "he is by no means desperate yet."

Gilbo'a points out why: 1) The threat of a U.S. offensive is not "immediate, and Saddam will not give the Americans even the slightest excuse for one." 2) By mutual consent, the leaders of the two superpowers have now opened a crack for him to receive food and medicine, and "he is not afraid of starving Iraq." 3) The blockade, restricted to the sea, is "incomplete." 4) He is striving to reach a peace agreement with Iran and receive aid from it. "If he succeeds, this will mark the beginning of the disintegration of the blockade." 5) Firm though it may have sounded, the USSR "does not regard him as a Satan but as a friend who must not be slapped." 6) The Arab world, on which both leaders pin hopes of persuading Saddam to quit Kuwait, "is completely discordant," so that the chances of it's achieving anything "are less than flimsy."

Even though the presidents threatened "additional steps," they did not specify them. "This means that under current circumstances Saddam Husayn can still survive and for the moment has no need or wish to start retreating. The end of the crisis is still far off."

An "analysis" by Eliyahu Salpeter on page A2 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew, entitled "Bush Can Claim a Partial Achievement," contends that despite the many statements of "accord," the joint communique "leaves no doubt that there remain differences of opinion on how to execute" the resolutions. Evidently, "even after the end of the Cold War, the interests the superpowers share are limited by regional interests." Moscow, for instance, "is not prepared to give up all its influence in the Arab world," despite its rejection "in principle" of Iraq's aggression. What mattered for Gorbachev was the message he could bring home from the summit, and he can be pleased "with Bush's promise to help promote perestroyka." He also reaffirmed the "Soviet role and status in Middle East affairs." "If Bush wanted to assure himself of Soviet participation in military action against Saddam Husayn, he was disappointed; if he merely wanted to demonstrate Moscow's acceptance of the possible future use of force, he can claim at least partial success."

'AL HAMISHMAR's editorial on page 7, entitled "A Chance for Diplomacy," juxtaposes this opportunity with "Saddam Husayn's brute threats" on the eve of the summit, while pointing out that the decision to allow food and medicine into Iraq "for humanitarian reasons despite the economic boycott could be construed as a sign of weakness." Saddam was thereby given another chance to "climb down from the high tree"—obviously at "Gorbachev's behest." From Israel's standpoint, Bush's firm opposition to any link between the two

Middle East problems "is important." Nonetheless, this must not lead to the conclusion that "the United States is washing its hands of the commitment to handle and promote the political process and to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict." The correct meaning of Bush's remarks is that "for the moment" the Gulf crisis "tops the U.S. national and political priority list," though "no doubt, once it is resolved," the Israeli-Palestinian issue will "reappear on the U.S. table with doubled urgency." Thus, the importance of the summit lay in superpower "coordination despite the different nuances and disagreements. Although it appeared that the USSR hardly 'features' as a superpower, it was agreed that it cannot be ignored." Cooperation with the USSR, "even if only at a low level, is most essential for the United States."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew publishes an editorial on page B17 entitled "The Battle Recedes," which concludes that "the result of the summit" is that Saddam can now "sleep more peacefully." "Each side remained more or less entrenched in its old positions." In the "fine balance," however, the joint statement "showed a little less of Bush and a little more of Gorbachev, and this is definitely surprising, particularly in view of the Soviet president's weakness at home and abroad." While analysts expected Gorbachev to "cave in throughout," this did not happen. On the contrary, "Bush was even forced to admit that the supply of food and medicine to Iraq does not conflict with the UN sanctions." He will therefore "have a tough job complaining about Jordan or any other country that continues to feed Iraq." Still, "given Gorbachev's current diminished status, one can hardly speak about a Soviet success in the summit. There is slightly greater justification in seeing a U.S. failure, stemming from one simple fact that was exposed during the present crisis: The United States may be the last superpower, but it cannot go it alone. The money Bush promised Egypt or Turkey will be raised by Baker and Treasury Secretary Brady in Japan or Germany. The United States simply cannot give any substantial assistance to the USSR. Bush needs a broad coalition to act, be it the United Nations, West Europe, Japan, or the Soviet Union. As we in Israel can tell him, one must always take the coalition partners' views into account."

Alex Fishman's analysis entitled "Bush Will Now Be Able To Claim That He Is Not a Wild Cowboy" on page A5 of HADASHOT argues: "The elephant yielded a mouse. Saddam can sleep tight." Some in Israel were "disappointed" by the shattering of the dream of "some U.S. Rambo-style operations in the Gulf," the fruits of which Israel could share. Bush, however, "mainly sought the tacit consent for a military option—which he needs primarily for domestic reasons—should he decide to choose it." He needed to be reassured that "when he chooses to go to battle, he would be able to argue that he had done everything to attain the goals in Kuwait peacefully; that he showed himself to be a responsible citizen of the world, not a wild cowboy. This he apparently achieved in Helsinki." The gaps that emerged in the news conference, maintains Fishman, "were in areas in which there was no room for compromise to begin with." In the end, "with respect to the prospects of war, the Helsinki summit changed nothing." "From Bush's angle, going to war is becoming less of a military decision and more of an internal U.S., almost personal, decision. In any case people at home regard him as a nerd."

Yo'el Esteron, writing from Washington on the same page of HADASHOT, calls his commentary "The Floating Summit." According to him, this is the most appropriate appellation for it because of the acrobatic way in which it ended: Any interpretation is up to the individual's own point of view. "The news conference cracked the joint front." Perhaps, as National Security Adviser Scowcroft claims, "in the broad view, the achievement of far-reaching superpower coordination in an attempt to resolve a regional conflict is 'historic.' The question is whether Saddam Husayn is also capable of a broad view or could be misled by the details. Bush and Gorbachev failed to gloss over the disputes and made room for a broad range of mistaken interpretation, were the onlooker so inclined." Washington may have wished to send a "clear and unambiguous message to the thug who cannot grasp hints as big as aircraft carriers. The message from Helsinki was fuzzy and bland—further proof of how hard it is to be a superpower in a new, disturbed world." In sum, "the Helsinki summit is a problematic move on the chessboard. It would be a tremendous surprise if it makes Saddam Husayn do what he has not done yet, namely say 'Sorry, I was wrong!' and withdraw from Kuwait."

HA'ARETZ's editorial on page B1, entitled "There Is No Connection Between the Palestinians and Kuwait," holds the view that since the "Kremlin leaders have repeatedly demanded an international conference to get Israel out of the occupied territories," and since the USSR "has never ceased to see itself as the ultimate superpower, from their standpoint this is the right opportunity to declare that no solution to the conflict would be possible unless they are equal partners with the United States in any political solution." Bush's firm insistence that the two Middle East issues are unrelated "should be welcomed." "Israel, for its part, must show willingness to seek a solution to the problem of the Palestinians who do not wish to remain under Israeli rule. At the same time, it must not allow this issue to be dealt with as the postscript to another conflict it has nothing to do with." Even the United Nations "never mentioned the Palestinian issue in any of its resolutions" when discussing the Gulf crisis. There is therefore "absolutely no similarity between the Iraq of Saddam Husayn, which swallowed a sovereign country that maintained peaceful relations with it, and Israel, which controls—but has not annexed—areas populated by masses of Arabs that it never coveted when it first went to war in its own defense." Israel must point this out constantly. "It is good that the U.S. President is aware of this and did not shrink from rejecting ideas that can rewrite history."

The editorial in MA'ARIV on page A14 is called "Not an Exhilarating Summit." Bush, it says, "never gave up the military option, but tied himself more closely to Gorbachev on the issue. He also repaid him: Washington helped Moscow back into the Middle East," or more specifically into the Israeli-Arab conflict. "Bush has already started to pay those who supported him against Iraq. He is paying Gorbachev with a post-dated check that could be drawn on Israel's bank account. He may do the same with respect to Egypt and Syria. Israel must be on the alert. The moment the Gulf crisis ends, Washington will be asked to repay a lot of debts. Let us hope it will also be wise enough to demand repayment for itself from those countries whose very existence depended on U.S. involvement in the Gulf." In conclusion, "this summit was important and fruitful for those who aspire to a political solution to the Gulf crisis. To those who, like us, believe that no such solution will happen and that if one does it will be even worse, the summit was nothing to be thrilled about."

Arabic Press on Helsinki Summit, Other Issues

Arabs Termed Helsinki 'Victims'

TA1109170490 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 10 Sep 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Helsinki Summit—Sealing a New Partnership"]

[Text] It seems from the final communique issued in the wake of the summit conference in Helsinki, as well as from the remarks of the two leaders, Bush and Gorbachev, that the conference achieved the aims each side was seeking. If Gorbachev was seeking to obtain U.S. dollars and Western technology and at the same time had in mind the concern of Soviet military officers over the massive U.S. military presence near the southern borders of their country, President Bush publicly announced that he will soon call on Congress to discuss his recommendation for close cooperation in the economic sphere as a reward to the Soviet Union for its obvious cooperation in the Gulf crisis. He also affirmed to the Soviet leader that U.S. troops will not remain in the region more than is necessary in order to implement the Security Council resolutions and ensure the Gulf's safety.

As for the United States, if it was seeking to ensure the Soviet Union's subservience or at best to retain the Soviet Union as a weak partner despite the fact that one of the conference's aims was to show Soviet citizens that their country and leader were still great, as well as providing legitimacy to the steps that the Soviet Union had taken so far and was going to take in the future, the final communique indicates without the slightest doubt that this has been achieved. Proof of this is the identity of Soviet and U.S. viewpoints on the announced U.S. goals behind U.S. military deployment in the Gulf, represented in playing the role of a policeman there in order to implement the Security Council resolutions—which were issued upon the request of the United States, with the aim of starving the Iraqi people and forcing them to withdraw from Kuwait even though this might require the adoption of new measures whose nature would be determined by the United States alone.

Thus, the unannounced Soviet intentions have once again converged with the secret and announced U.S. intentions, and the outlines of the new partnership between them have become clear. The first goal of this partnership is to prolong the Gulf crisis and foil forever the option of an Arab solution. This would greatly benefit the leaders of the new partnership. This crisis occurred at the end of a cold war that depleted the Soviet economy on the one hand, and on the other hand left a U.S. military surplus in Europe which no longer was justified and constituted a burden on the U.S. budget if it remained in its present shape. What better place to transfer this surplus than to the Gulf, where the United States will be killing several birds with one stone. First, it will ensure the draining of Arab money under the pretext of providing protection to the oil shaykhs. At the same time it will consolidate its control over the immense Arab oil riches and benignly tell its allies that it is securing their interests by ensuring the flow of Arab oil to them in prices determined by it, not by the oil's legal owners.

As for the Soviet Union, it will secure additional income from the fluctuation in oil prices and will also ensure the exchange of U.S. and Western technology, which it desperately needs, with the billions of dollars that will pour into the Soviet Union as aid from Western countries for shoring up its sick economy.

The victims of the new partnership are, first, the Arabs, then the European countries, Japan, and the Third World. Will the victims realize the dimensions and goals of the new partnership? This will be revealed in the near future, sooner than the leaders of the new partnership expect.

Gorbachev's Summit Stance Assailed

TA1109180890 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 10 Sep 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Helsinki Summit...and Joint Gangsterism"]

[Text] First we would like to comment by saying that the Arab nation will not sit idle, humiliated by what the "strong" dictate, and that specifically, Iraq will never capitulate.

Yes, the "joint communique" in the wake of the Helsinki summit between George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev was disappointing, especially with regard to the Soviet position! The Soviet Union lost its importance as a superpower by shamefully tilting toward the United States in order to "safeguard" very narrow interests at the expense of strategic interests that vanished from Gorbachev's mind. Both eyesight and mental perception became blind!

Instead of proposing practical and logical measures to resolve the dispute in the Gulf by taking into consideration the interests of the region's nations, the Helsinki summit proposed fragmentary solutions which in fact serve only the interest of the two "superpowers," particularly the United States.

Hence, this summit proved that the United States and the Soviet Union not only do not think of but also do not attach the slightest importance to the future of nations in a changing world in which these nations are playing a unique role in defense of their interests, resources, and aspirations for a better future.

It is indeed regrettable that the two superpowers still hint at applying further international "pressure" on Iraq under cover of the so-called UN Security Council resolutions and measures. This clearly proves that the two superpowers prefer the military option for resolving the crisis, without paying heed to the acute circumstances that require exerting further efforts not only toward resolving the Gulf crisis but also toward other complicated problems, particularly the Palestinian problem.

We would like to assure these two superpowers, however, that the Yalta era—the era of dividing spheres of influence—has ended and will never return, and that nations alone have the right to determine their destiny, sovereignty, and policy. Furthermore, the Arab nation in particular will never surrender and bargain over the unity of its scattered parts and will absolutely not allow the looting of its wealth which belongs to it alone.

Summit 'Broke No New Ground'

TA1209160890 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Sep 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Results of the Helsinki Summit—What Happened and What Is Required"]

[Text] The joint communique issued by U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, as well as the statements they made at the conclusion of the Helsinki summit, were neither surprising nor contained anything that might bring about a fundamental change in the Gulf crisis or the means of resolving it. While no one was willing to bet that this summit would reach a settlement overnight with regard to the obvious contradiction between Washington's goals in the region and Iraq's position, the summit reaffirmed the Security Council's resolutions on the crisis. The United States had a central role in the formulation of these resolutions.

Bush and Gorbachev demanded a verbatim implementation of the "UN resolutions." Despite their emphasis that they were striving for a "peaceful solution," they declared their readiness to contemplate additional measures within the framework of the United Nations "if it transpires that the measures adopted so far were inadequate."

The U.S. and Soviet leaders did not forget to heap praise on each other and to herald a "new international order" as a result of their cooperation, particularly in the Gulf crisis. Bush explained this cooperation plainly when he lauded the Soviet Union's "manifest cooperation" in the Gulf crisis. This is what prompted him to "recommend close cooperation in the economic sphere" with the Soviet Union, and to call Congress into session for this purpose as soon as possible.

A clear equation...the realization of Washington's goals in the region in exchange for economic aid to the Soviet Union that would help Gorbachev implement the policy of "perestroyka" and extricate his country from its economic crisis. If this cooperation seeks in the first place to ensure the interests of both Washington and Moscow, how can this cooperation conform with international legitimacy, especially if it were to collide with the interests and aspirations of the region's nations? If Bush and Gorbachev are eager to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, how can one interpret their swift action regarding the Gulf crisis at a time when the Arabs have not seen such action for many years regarding the implementaion of UN resolutions relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Arabs' central problem, the Palestinian problem, or the UN resolutions on Lebanon?

International legitimacy is indivisible, just as are the region's problems. Hence, one could have viewed seriously the results of the Helsinki summit had it called for the convocation of an international conference to resolve all the region's problems. This proposal was raised by the Soviet Union, but apparently it abandoned the proposal on the eve of the summit.

The joint U.S.-Soviet communique broke no new ground toward a swift resolution of the Gulf crisis. Moreover, it did not give the Arab world any feeling that the two superpowers are concerned about its rights and interests. If Bush and Gorbachev are really trying to create a new international order compatible with international legitimacy and in harmony with the rights of nations to determine their destinies, what is required today is to consider the realization of UN resolutions as an indivisible whole in a way that would ensure the interests and rights of the region's nations. Otherwise, the burning fuse is liable to explode at any moment, wrecking the peace and stability which the region's nations sincerely desire.

'Illusions' of U.S.-Arab Alliance

TA1109144990 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 7 Sep 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Illusions of the New Colonialist Alliance"]

[Text] The new colonialist U.S. presence in the Arab Peninsula, which took place upon the request of the Al Sa'ud rulers, is no longer just an "emergency situation" that can be terminated upon their request. This presence is perpetual and permanent according to the acknowledgment of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker himself. This presence goes beyond a mere limited "deployment" in known military bases to "a shift in the balance of forces in the entire Middle East" according to Baker in the context of his remarks two days ago. He affirmed that his country intends to establish a U.S.-Arab alliance in the region!

An alliance between Washington, Riyadh, Cairo, Damascus, and so forth based on the pattern of the old colonialist Baghdad Pact of 34 years ago? Perhaps, but the utter failure that afflicted that old pact will necessarily afflict this new alliance too. Just as at that time 'Abd-al-Nasir's Cairo was a stronghold of confrontation and resistance, Saddam Husayn's Baghdad is now in the trench of confrontation aimed at foiling the alliance of the new satans.

It seems that colonialism learns neither from its own mistakes nor from the lessons of history. Nations that have achieved their independence through long and bitter struggles, however, are well aware of history's movement, because above all it is they who make history and initiate events at all times and everywhere.

If it is true that a new map of the region is going to be drawn and the balance of forces in it changed, what will be and has been actually created, and what will alter and has been practically altered, is necessarily to the benefit of the region's nations and for the sake of achieving their rights, safeguarding their wealth, and reinforcing their dignity as well as their human and civilized role on this planet. As to the illusions of the colonialists, the clank of their weapons, and their greed in looting and stealing, these will soon come to nought.

Mubarak Anti-Palestinian Stance

TA1009124190 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 5 Sep 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Husni Mubarak and Lining up Behind the Israeli Condition"]

[Text] When in light of the explosive Gulf crisis, and despite its domination of all international and regional news media, we find a new reason for affirming the fundamental aspect and strategic significance of our Palestinian problem and its peaceful resolution, which forms the basis for the resolution of all new and old problems and crises, at this very time the Egyptian Government, headed by Husni Mubarak, chose to launch its poisoned arrow against our problem and against our entire Palestinian people and their sole legitimate leadership, represented by the PLO led by Yasir 'Arafat. The Egyptian Government mobilized all its massive print and electronic propaganda organs in a large-scale hostile and treacherous campaign against the entire Palestinian presence inside and outside the occupied territories and on all levels.

This Egyptian campaign, led by Husni Mubarak himself, reveals the most dangerous conspiracy linking Cairo with Washington and other capitals which harbor animosity toward our Palestinian people. This conspiracy seeks to liquidate the most important and prominent Arab problem—our Palestinian problem—in order to realize, through this colonialist liquidation, the new colonialist decision to maintain complete control over the Gulf states, destroy Iraq, and reinforce factional and regional fragmentation across the whole Arab map.

As a matter of course, Husni Mubarak's government thus sees eye to eye with the Israeli Government, whose foreign minister, David Levi, stressed upon flying to Washington "peace" with the Arab states on condition that the PLO is excluded!

It is this Israeli condition that Husni Mubarak has chosen to line up for, with surprising and startling persistence and apparently irreversibly: on the side opposed to all the Arab causes.

PLO's 'Arafat Meets Husayn in Amman

JN1209174090 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, at the Royal Hashemite Court today.

During the meeting the two leaders exchanged views on the Gulf crisis and the efforts being made to reach a political settlement to this crisis within the Arab framework.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and the king's political adviser. Also attending for the Palestinian side were Salah Khalaf, 'Abdallah Hurani, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman this afternoon on a short working visit.

Paper Welcomes Khamene'i Call for Jihad

JN1309094190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Sep 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "U.S. Arrogance and the Islamic Spirit of Challenge"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's speech to both houses of Congress has, to a large degree, demonstrated an arrogance of power, which is now backed by a military buildup unprecedented since the Vietnam War. This makes us continue to wonder if President Bush has gone beyond all limits in his threats against the Iraqi people and the Arab nation.

Best evidence of that is the Crusader spirit permeating the U.S. President's speech and the supercilious tone which shows complete disregard for the peoples of this region, which George Bush sees only as rich oil wells and a race of watchmen who have no dignity or ambition other than serving the American master and supplying him with cheap oil.

Despite his long talk about the new international order and the world just emerging from the Cold War, the U.S. President could not hide his imperialist ambitions in the Gulf when he spoke about maintaining a long-term U.S. military presence and setting up regional security alliances even after the Gulf crisis. This makes us believe that the United States wants to return us to the policy of alliances in an age where there is no need for such humiliating entanglements.

So it is only natural for fraternal Iraq to reject the obvious fallacies in the Bush speech, and for this hostile U.S. stand to provoke the strongest reactions from Iran. That country has begun to feel the serious dangers threatening the future of this region and to see precisely from which direction these impending dangers are coming, now that President Bush has gone too far by talking about an extended presence and a return to the policy of regional alliances.

Therefore, we consider the stand announced by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the spiritual leader of the Islamic revolution in Iran, as a real response to the direct challenge posed by U.S. occupation of the Gulf and the land of prophecy. We also consider this Iranian stand as a true and clear expression of the feelings of the Arab and Islamic nation, which was appalled to see Jewish rabbis [in the U.S. forces] returning to the holiest Islamic place after 14 centuries to perform their prayers.

While we consider the U.S. President's speech as showing all signs of the intoxication and blindness of power, we see Ayatollah Khamene'i's urgent call for Jihad against U.S. occupation as the natural and expected reaction from all Arabs and Muslims, whom the United States continues to disregard, trample on their dignity, and go even beyond all that by encroaching on their holy places and religious ideals and values.

Egypt Assailed for Banning Muslim Leaders' Travel

JN1309100890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Sep 90 pp 16, 12

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—The Egyptian authorities have prevented the people's Islamic delegation from leaving Cairo Airport for Amman to begin a tour of the region in an attempt to find a way out of the Gulf crisis.

The delegation is composed of His Eminence Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, Muslim Brotherhood supreme guide; Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, People's Assembly member; Ibrahim Shukri, People's Assembly member and Labor Party leader; and His Eminence Mustafa Mashhur, Muslim Brotherhood deputy supreme guide.

His Eminence Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, has stated that the Egyptian Government's action will increase tension; he expressed surprise at the Egyptian authorities' actions regarding those leaders and preachers and at the obstruction of their noble mediation in those serious events.

He added that this measure constitutes a stumbling block on the way to defusing the crisis. He stressed that although the Egyptian delegation has failed to leave Cairo to take part in this good Islamic effort, the popular Islamic delegation will nevertheless leave as soon as all of its members arrive in Amman on a tour of the countries directly concerned in the Gulf events.

An authorized Muslim Brotherhood source has also stated that preventing the Egyptian delegation from leaving for Amman aims at aborting the Islamic initiative, led by the World Islamic Movement, to find a way out from the current crisis in the Gulf.

It is worth mentioning that the Islamic Movement delegation is composed of Islamic activists in a number of

Arab and Islamic states, including Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Turkey. It is also worth recalling that the Islamic Movement and its scholars did not take part in the recent meetings of the Islamic World League in Mecca.

Observers have noted that the Islamic Movement's leaders and scholars boycotted the conference organized by the Islamic World League in holy Mecca a few days ago. Therefore, those observers take a serious view of the Islamic Movement's mediation because it can influence typical Arab and Islamic citizens, who are known to be extremely sensitive about the foreign presence in the region.

This is the second time that the Egyptian security authorities have stopped the delegation from traveling. The delegation was prevented from boarding a plane for Amman the day before yesterday, and officials said the delegation was planning to go by land to Baghdad via Jordan, and then leave for Saudi Arabia within the framework of mediation efforts. The government has offered no explanation for preventing the delegation from leaving for Iraq.

Statistics on Gulf Crisis Evacuees Reported

JN1209064990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The total number of Arab and foreign expatriates leaving Jordan by air since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis had reached Monday night 170,765, departing from Jordan on 860 unscheduled flights, according to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director Mahmud Balqaz

He said in a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, that most of the people leaving by air from Jordanian airports were Egyptians, Indians, Pakistanis, Yemenis, Bangladeshis and Chinese.

"A total of 25 airlines together with military aircraft from Italy, Belgium, Spain, Saudi Arabia and Egypt took part in transporting the evacuees to their countries," said Balqaz.

Balqaz thanked various Jordanian departments and Arab and foreign embassies which have been cooperating with the CAA and the various airlines to ensure the repatriation of the evacuees.

Meanwhile, Amman Airport Tuesday reported the arrival of a Swedish cargo plane laden with relief supplies to the evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait. A team from the Swedish Red Cross arrived aboard the aircraft to spend a few days in Jordan and to help local and foreign relief organizations with their task.

The Swedish team is expected to visit the evacuees camps at al- Ruwayshid Wednesday in the company of Jordan National Red Crescent Society officials, and will later visit al-Azraq evacuee camp.

Al-Ruwayshid border post officials have reported that 351,222 evacuees of various nationalities have so far arrived in Jordan over land by late Monday.

Red Cross Secretary General Arrives

JN1209114090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] (Barr Stanback), secretary general of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies [LRCS], arrived in Amman this evening on a visit to Jordan. During this visit, he will hold talks with Dr. Ahmad Abu-Qurah, chairman of the permanent committee of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent and director general of the Jordanian Red Crescent, on relief operations for those arriving in Jordan, which the committee will conduct in cooperation with the LRCS and for which the LRCS will provide the necessary aid.

(Stanback) will also hold talks with Dr. Ibrahim al-Nuri, president of the Iraqi Red Crescent, on ways to facilitate humanitarian operations conducted by the Iraqi Red Crescent especially for those leaving Iraq for their countries.

Interior Minister Briefs UK's Chalker on Refugees

JN1309075690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13-14 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Response to Jordan's appeals for help to deal with the question of tens of thousands of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait was not up to the level of the human tragedy at hand, and the Kingdom fears that lack or delay in providing help in this matter is politically motivated, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Ministry Salim Masa'idah said Wednesday.

"Jordan is a small country, with very limited resources, living under very difficult economic conditions, and is in bad need of help to deal with the question of evacuees," said Masa'idah at a meeting with visiting British Minister for Overseas Development Linda Chalker.

In outlining to the British Minister Jordan's efforts to accommodate, feed and transport the tens of thousands of Arab and foreign expatriates fleeing the Gulf, the minister said that the government sought to help the repatriation of these evacuees within the shortest possible time, but at the same time it was struggling to provide food, medicine and shelter to them while they were staying in Jordan.

Masa'idah said that voluntary and charitable organisations in Jordan, foreign embassies and international organisations were doing their best but more aid was required, and Jordan had been promised more help from the embassies and organisations to enable it cope with this humanitarian task.

"But response is not up to the aspirations and Jordan is afraid that the delay in providing humanitarian assistance could be politically motivated," he said.

Chalker said that her country was concerned over the situation and would do everything in its power to help Jordan.

She said her visit here aimed at enabling her to have a close look at the situation of the evacuees.

Chalker said that she would convey her impressions to the British government and would consult with Britain's delegate to the European Community on ways to increase the volume of aid to Jordan to help it shoulder this immense burden and to help repatriate the evacuees as soon as possible.

Chalker, who arrived here Tuesday evening on a three-day visit, said that she would do all she could to secure British relief supplies to Jordan.

Chalker later conferred with Minister of Planning Khalid Amin 'Abdallah, reviewing with him scopes of bilateral cooperation in development and economic fields. She also discussed the situation in the Gulf and the adverse effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordan's economy.

The British minister also met Dr. Ahmad Abu-Qurah, president of the Jordan National Crescent Society (JNRCS) which is organising relief operations in cooperation with foreign organisations.

Following the meeting with Abu-Qurah, it was announced that the British government was donating 500,000 pounds to JNRCS through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as part of Britain's contribution to international efforts to help the evacuees.

According to the British Embassy here, Chalker is making the visit to supervise the British contribution to the relief operation for the evacuees in Jordan and to assess what further assistance was needed.

Indian Transport Minister Inspects Refugees, Departs

JN1209151290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 11 Sep (PETRA-JNA)—The Indian transport minister and his accompanying delegation left Amman today after a visit to Jordan lasting several days. During this visit he held talks on promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields of transportation with the minister of transport and communications and several officials. He also met Indian nationals arriving in Jordan from Iraq.

He was seen off at the airport by the minister of transport and communications, the secretary general of the ministry, several high-ranking officials, and the Indian ambassador in Amman.

Al-Qasim Repeats Need for Arab Solution to Crisis

JN1209114490 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] The deputy premier and foreign minister, Marwan al-Qasim, reiterated the need to reach an internationally supported Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. Mr. al-Qasim told the French news agency AFP that it was impossible to impose a solution from outside the region. He said there is a need for an Arab role and international support to reach a settlement. Without a peaceful settlement, he added, there would be no winner, especially from the Arab side.

The foreign minister said Jordan is following with interest the recent Soviet suggestion for an international conference to solve the Gulf crisis. Mr. al-Qasim urged the international powers that are concerned with global peace and security to dedicate equal attention to other pressing issues, like the Palestinian cause.

Officials Vow Support for King Fahd

JN0709143090 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Amman - SPA—Lieutenant General 'Akkash Pasha al- Zaban, former Jordanian defense minister and army chief of staff; 'Abd-al-Karim Ma'yuf al-Funay'at, the shaykh of al-Funay'at clan from the tribes of Palestine; and Sulayman Muhammad al-Khamis, head of the al-Nuzhah Charity Organization, visited the embassy of the custodian of the two holy mosques in Jordan.

They expressed their support for the steps and measures taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to defend its land against the Iraqi threat.

They also expressed their feelings and affirmed that they will be ready to respond to the call of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, to exert everything that is dear and worthwhile to defend the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

PNC's Al-Sa'ih, Al-Masri Comment on Summit

JN1309071590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Sep 90 First Edition p 3

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpt] Many people followed the critical moments in Helsinki yesterday as they awaited the results of the Bush-Gorbachev summit on the Gulf crisis—results that would indicate the way to resolve the crisis. Has the war option been abandoned and peaceful solutions adopted, or was what took place only to gain time pending the right moment to launch a U.S.-Atlantic war against Iraq and the Arab nation? SAWT AL-SHA'B monitored the opinion of several key political figures.

In the first Palestinian response to the Bush-Gorbachev summit, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], expressed optimism that the specter of war has left the region, as the military option was not discussed. He said that during this summit, whose results the world awaited with great attention, an inclination toward peace, peaceful solutions, and a departure from military escalation which would otherwise lead to an acute world crisis, has emerged.

The PNC speaker said: Linking the Palestine question to the other issues on which the international body (Security Council) has adopted resolutions is essential. Peaceful solutions should not be confined to one issue to the exclusion of other important and crucial ones such as the Palestine question, the occupation of the Golan Heights, and the Lebanese issue. Several resolutions pertaining to the Palestine question were adopted—I mean such as Resolution 242. Yet we notice that the U.S. Administration refuses to implement them, deliberately forgetting that there is a Palestinian people that is being exposed to killing and the ugliest forms of inhumane practices by Zionist soldiers occupying the Palestinian land. These soldiers are killing children, elderly people, and women with their weapons.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih also referred to the Arab and Islamic nation's rejection of the Western military presence on Arab land in Palestine and the Gulf. He stressed the need for the immediate withdrawal of these forces before considering any peaceful solution, and for replacing them with Arab and Islamic forces if necessary.

He said: What took place between Iraq and Kuwait is an Arab affair that must be resolved within an Arab framework. The Arab nation is capable of resolving its problems without foreign intervention. He referred to the efforts of his majesty the king and President 'Arafat to resolve the crisis peacefully within the Arab fold.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that we do not have to thank the two leaders for allowing food exports to Iraq because this is the natural right of all nations and no one has the right to starve an entire nation for any reason whatsoever.

Tahir al-Masri, head of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, said that the first reading of the joint communique and what was said at the news conference clearly shows that the United States now has a free hand in directing the world, while the Soviet Union's role has become secondary.

Al-Masri said that U.S. President Bush's concern to hold the summit was prompted by psychological and propaganda reasons in the first place. He added that it was clear from President Gorbachev's words that the Soviet Union's need for economic and technological aid lies behind Gorbachev's political decisions.

Al-Masri drew several conculsions, foremost being: A military confrontation in the coming period is ruled out. It seems that the United States has gained an implicit Soviet agreement to remain silent if a U.S. military attack against Iraq and Kuwait is required.

The second conclusion in al-Masri's opinion is that the issue of linkage between a solution to the Palestine question and that of Kuwait is now open for discussion more than ever. He agrees that the Soviet Union might have rasied this issue to the United States, and we might soon see a slow movement in this direction.

Al-Masri stressed that an accord between the United States and the Soviet Union will in the future dominate other international issues and affairs. I will not be exaggerating if I say that I see signs of a U.S.-Soviet-British alliance aimed at encircling the united European continent and its increasing economic power. We base this on President Bush's remark at the press conference on the importance of the Malta meeting between the two leaders, which indicates the beginning of this alliance, he said. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Receives Arab Jurists Delegation

JN1309064790 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at the Royal Court this morning a delegation representing participants at the third Arab Jurists Congress which ended in Amman yesterday.

The crown prince reviewed with the delegation the current situation in the region and Jordan's position on the Gulf crisis. His highness stressed the need to find a peaceful end to the crisis and noted that the Middle East complicated questions should be dealt with in a comprehensive manner that guarantees justice for all parties. His royal highness explained to the delegation the economic hardships which hit Jordan after it adopted UN Security Counil Resolution 660 on the Gulf crisis.

Members of the delegation praised efforts by his majesty the king and the Jordanian Government aimed at achieving an Arab political solution to the problem.

Royal Decree Ends Extraordinary Parliament Session

JN1209132290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] A royal decree was issued today ending the extraordinary session of both houses of parliament as of 15 September 1990.

British Envoy, Fadlallah Discuss Hostage Issue

NC1209170490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] British Ambassador David Tathan today met with 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and conveyed to him his government's concern regarding the hostages. He asked him and all officials to do their utmost to bring about their release. Tathan expressed optimism about the release of three British hostages held in Lebanon, maintaining that the general situation is improving.

'Awn Assails Government, Refuses To 'Give In'

NC1209151690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn launched a campaign today against the legitimate government and the al-Ta'if accord. He said that there will be no more war. At a news conference, he said that the al-Ta'if accord and its results have created an impasse, but that he is the solution. He said that the al-Ta'if government's authority comes from abroad, is supported from outside, has failed to win the people's confidence, and is the worst example of corruption, as he put it.

Gen. 'Awn said: No one can manipulate my fate; I propose to hold talks for reaching concrete, not ineffective, shadowy results. He said: Henceforth, there will be no war. The situation in the area is becoming calm, despite a lack of ethics on the part of certain media, a sign of despair. He said: I am not preaching war, nor do I want it. I am ready, however, to defend myself; I refuse to give in.

Gen. 'Awn said that the people will not hand over their symbols to those in whom they have no trust. We are the guardians of B'abda, and legitimacy can only come from those elected by the people.

Israeli Forces 'Pressure' Al-Khiyam Prisoners

NC1209172990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpt] In the struggling south, an Amal Movement military source said that the Israeli occupation forces used Merkava tanks to shell Amal squads who were sent to ambush the enemy in advanced positions near Jarju'. One of the mujahidin was killed and seven others injured, some seriously. The casualties were evacuated from the battleground and transported to hospitals.

In the occupied security strip, security reports indicate that the occupation forces and their allied militia entered the towns of Markaba and Hula two days ago. They arrested 10 citizens in Markaba and 15 in Hula for refusing to join the militia voluntarily. According to the reports, the force that entered the towns was led by agents Husayn Mundhir, Mahmud 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Ayyub, and Kamal Shirin.

Other reports from the security strip say that lately the occupation forces have been putting severe psychological pressure on the detainees in al-Kiyyam prison to force them to give information about resistance members or to confess to charges against them. This pressure takes the form of escorting the detainees, blindfolded and in small groups, outside the camp and telling them they are going to be executed. The occupation forces then fire shots over the detainees' heads and all around them to cause them to break down. [passage omitted]

Israeli Force Advances Toward Kawkaba Sector

NC1309082690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] A 50-man strong Israeli force escorted by seven tanks and two helicopters advanced toward the township of Kawkaba early today. According to security reports, resistance men clashed with the Israeli force, while Israeli artillery emplacements in Marj 'Uyun bombarded 'Ayn al-Tinah and Maydun, north of Kawkaba.

'Fundamentalists' Confront Israelis

NC1309090790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] AFP cited security sources as saying that approximately 50 Israeli soldiers, supported by seven armored cars ['arabat musaffahah], entered the Kawkaba sector this morning as Israeli artillery in Marj 'Uyun shelled the towns of 'Ayn al-Tinah and Maydun, two km north of Kawkaba.

Islamic sources said that an Israeli force advanced to a distance five km north of the security zone in the direction of Western al-Biqa', that confrontations are taking place between the Israeli force and the fundamentalists, and that the Israeli forces have brought reinforcements to the battlefield.

'Grinding Battles' Continue

NC1309113290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] The resistance front command issued a statement a short while ago saying that grinding battles between Israeli enemy troops and a Suha Bisharah resistance group have been raging on the Burghuz ridges in western al-Biqa' since this morning. Various types of weapons are being. The front's statement added that well over 12 enemy troops have been killed or wounded in the fighting thus far. Fresh Israeli reinforcements are being sent to the battlefield, according to the statement.

Al-Asad Addresses Graduating Paratroopers

JN1209200690 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1732 GMT 12 Sep 90

["Full recording" of speech by President Hafiz al-Asad at the graduation ceremony of the fifth class of military paratroopers on 12 September; place not given]

[Text] O comrade youths: I cannot suppress my feelings of happiness and I am overjoyed to see 10,000 paratroopers from among our young men and women on this day, including 2,000 women paratroopers. [applause] Meeting with youth is a meeting of the present and future of the people; a meeting of force and sacrifice; a meeting of love and patriotism; a meeting of hope and ambition; a meeting of the armies of victory in all the battles of the homeland. [applause and chants]

It is through you that I see the brightness of this homeland and the vitality of this people. It is through you that I see our glorious past in the portrait of the glorious future. For you are the hope of the homeland, because you are the pillar of its freedom and liberation and the pillar of its battles and victory. [applause]

While meeting you today ...[youths interrupt, chanting declarations of their readiness to sacrifice their blood and lives]. You have completed your military training course, during which you have exerted immense efforts and practiced various combat skills, using various weapons, including military parachuting—efforts through which you have gained experience and knowledge which will enable you to carry out your responsibilities and the various great missions awaiting you in defense of your party, people, and homeland. I congratulate you on the efforts you have made, through which you have passed the course of parachuting with efficiency and merit, and for which you deserve every praise and appreciation. [applause and chants]

The aim of youth military training courses—which are held in the various governorates of the country and in the capital, and which were created by the leadership many years ago in response to the desire of the youth and the suggestions of their organizational units, and the youth's remarkable response and their enthusiasm to attend these courses—is to build our youth in their successive generations as a strong, solid edifice in mind and body, knowledge, science, and resourcefulness, so that they can deal with various aspects and challenges of life effectively and skillfully. While preparing our youth and people and sacrificing funds, efforts, and sweat, I want to say that we want to build the human being who has self-confidence, who can make sacrifices, and who takes pride in his homeland and people—the human being whose trait is sacrifice, his nature belief and courage, and whose goal is martyrdom for the sake of the homeland and fighting the enemies of the nation; because we want to live with dignity and honor in a dignified, honorable homeland. [applause and chants]

Youths, men and women: You should benefit from science, from knowledge, physical education, from all that can promote your efficiency and fitness, so that you would be worthy of the missions and responsibilities you are going to shoulder.

Youths: Syria, with its great people, will remain a fortified bastion, defending itself and its nation and exposing falsehood wherever it sees it, and exposing misguidance wherever it finds it. Syria is guided in its actions only by the nation's general interests. As for narrow interests, personal whims and ulterior motives, they have governed neither Syria's present nor future march. We have never condoned such interests and whims. We will never do so in the future. No one can ever mislead us with fabrics that have intermingling colors and shapes. Our people have matured through time and experience, through ordeals and difficulties. Thus, they have acquired the ability to sort out colors and shapes, so as to differentiate from what is good and what is worthless; to distinguish what is specific and what is general; and to see—the way they are seeing today—the contradiction between the shape and the content, crystal clear. We see a glittering shape and a pitch- dark content—a shape which is given the exterior of pan-Arabism and an instinctual, egoistic, and narrow content, which not only ignores the pan-Arab interests of the nation and its hopes, but treads upon pan-Arab interests and hopes for regional interests at certain times, and personal interests and whims at other times.

Comrades, young men and women: The events in the Gulf are painful and saddening to every Arab. What is happening is a squandering of resources, and a very bad squandering at that. What is happening is a bad fragmentation of ranks. What is happening now, what has taken root in the minds, and what has lived and continues to live with the Arabs now during their waking and sleeping hours is their fear of each other, the fear of the Arab from the Arab. The fear of a brother from his brother is what is preoccupying people; it is the basic preoccupation—the sole preoccupation of the majority.

What is happening now is that foreign forces are being dragged into the region, from every part of the world, from every direction and from every nationality. Dragging these forces here, and what this means for the present and the future, and what it symbolizes, is that the foreigner is protecting the Arab from the Arab. This calls to mind the Arab pre-Islamic times with all its black aspects.

As for the Palestine question, it has retreated and is no longer the primary concern of Arabs. In fact, most likely it is no longer on the priority scale of some Arabs. There is no doubt that one of the important factors that led to the retreat of this issue was that some leaderships pushed the Palestine issue into the existing dispute between Iraq and Kuwait, thus dividing the Arabs between supporters of the invasion and annexation, and opponents, respectively.

All this has happened and is happening because one Arab country invaded another Arab country without a comprehensible need for that. All these dangers happened because an Arab state invaded and annexed another Arab state without any acceptable or comprehensible justification.

These effects are dangerous. They are tantamount to an Arab catastrophe. They provide the enemies of the Arab nation with a great, historic gain whose size and dimensions are as large as the size of the dangerous effects and their spiritual and material dimensions. This is what no enemy would have expected to get this easily at this point in time in such a huge proportion.

After all this, can we say that the occupation of Kuwait was a pan-Arab act that sought to serve pan-Arab interests? Can we say that the invasion and annexation of Kuwait strengthened the Arab nation's status? Can we say that the invasion of Kuwait increased the potentials of the Arabs, or decreased them? Has it united ranks or divided them? Has it strengthened our status in the international arena or shaken and weakened it? Has it increased the potentials of the Arabs or depleted them? Has it benefitted the people of Kuwait or rendered homeless the majority of the Kuwaiti people, while the rest are in even worse shape? Has it benefited Iraq, or has it once again squandered its potentials and placed it in a position that portends widespread evil? This invasion of Kuwait, its annexation, and the cancellation of the state constitute a huge catastrophe and unforgivable sin.

In a dangerous event like this, when a serious Arab event such as this one takes place, can Syria act as a spectator with no opinion? A Syria without an opinion does not exist. We will not accept this for ourselves. Besides, no one expects such a thing from us, particularly considering that the issue concerns us—concerns us a great deal—because it poses threats to our nation in terms of its principles, values, and interests. The Syrian opinion and stand stem from, and are based on, these principles, values, and interests.

We do not tilt in favor of this or that side. We do not take sides with the weak or the strong. However, we do take sides with justice and with pan-Arab justice. What I mean by pan-Arab justice is the sum total of the nation's principles, values, and interests, both armed and in harmony with the laws and just international charters, on which nations have agreed, and which have been the fruit of a long struggle waged by humanity throughout its existence.

This pan-Arab right dictates foundations for inter-Arab ties. One of these foundations is that Arab differences should be resolved through dialogue, not fire. This was not the case between Iraq and Kuwait; what happened was completely the contrary. If each inter-Arab dispute were to be resolved or an attempt made to resolve it in this manner, we would find that inter-Arab wars would extend from the farthest point in the Arab east to the farthest point in the Arab Maghreb.

Pan-Arab justice—either through pure pan-Arab values or through the just international conventions, laws, and norms, of which the Arab nation constitutes a mainstay and a force committed to honoring these international conventions, laws, and norms—prohibits the use of force by one state to drive another state into oblivion. What happened is that the State of Kuwait was canceled by the use of force, and what happened in Kuwait aroused the concern of the other Arab states neighboring Kuwait. O brothers, much has been said about the causes of what happened, about the causes of the invasion of Kuwait and its annexation by Iraq. They said that Iraq invaded Kuwait because Kuwait, along with some Arab states neighboring it, was conspiring against Iraq and working to strangle it economically. They also said that Kuwait had not written off the debts Iraq incurred during the Iraq-Iran war. Moreover, they said that Kuwait refused to give Iraq the $10 billion it demanded. They said many other things. However, what they have finally settled for and what is being continuously repeated and adhered to by our brothers in Iraq is that the Kuwait operation and the invasion of Kuwait were an historic rectification process, a rectification of history, because Kuwait, as they put it, was part of Iraq, and the part must return to the whole, the branch to the tree trunk; it has been returned right now, and that is the end of it.

Syria believes that rectifying historical distortions is a required and desirable matter. However, this should not take place through force and oppression, but through shared vision and action with other parties. Otherwise, it would constitute one distortion on top of another. Has there been discussion and agreement between the two Arab parties or with other Arab parties on how they view the situation between Iraq and Kuwait? Did they reach a minimal convergence of views stipulating that this situation was a historical Arab distortion or a historical distortion in Iraq-Kuwait history? If nothing of the sort happened, which is the case as facts have shown, then can force be used to impose the view of an Arab party on another Arab party? Moreover, can this method and mode be used to rectify distortions in the course of Arab history wherever we find them?

Each of us knows that, from a pan-Arab historical point of view, the current Arab state of affairs is full of mistakes. If we wish to rectify these mistakes, which we see wherever we look, and if we want to rectify them this way, the result will be a prolonged series of long inter-Arab and Arab-foreign wars. This will lead to the destruction of Arab history, not a rectification of Arab history. Every one of us knows that the destruction of history means the destruction of geography. When geography falls apart, this will be in the interest of the foreign enemies of the nation and in the interest of Zionism, which is in lying in wait for us. We should not forget that this will strongly help the developments introduced by the current historical stage into the international arena. He who would seek to rectify history must make efforts and foster pan-Arab awareness through seriousness, through the pursuit of a scientific approach, and through the demonstration of rationality. He must support that by serious Arab cooperation that covers all aspects of the material and spiritual Arab life. All this must be given the time span required for it to ripen and become mature. When we do that, we will see that we are following an open, secure, and promising path to a correct and straight Arab history. Any other path at this age and phase of cultural and material Arab development is a threatening, destructive path that obstructs the emergence of pan-Arab awareness—an awareness which will prove to be a promising one if we deal well with it.

O comrades, it is regrettable to see this Arab state of affairs in which we see some parties supporting the invasion of an Arab state by another state. It is regrettable to see in this Arab state of affairs some parties which refrain from addressing the real problem when they speak of the current period and present circumstances, and also when they speak of what was and should be. Instead of pinpointing the problem, they attempt to keep away from it, and to dwell on the results and repercussions of the problem. They make these results and repercussions look as though they were the cause of the problem at a time when they of course know otherwise. When I say they know otherwise, I am referring to some people, knowing that many who fall into this mistake and avoid the true dimensions of the problem are innocent people whose opinions are governed by knowledge and experience which may not be sufficient for a fair judgment. Sometimes, their opinions are governed by some amity or affection toward this or that party. I do not want to focus blame on them right now. However, I urge them to demonstrate further caution, vigilance, scrutiny, and careful examination, and to look for facts and also for useful pan-Arab ways to serve the nation as a whole. They should entrench pan-Arab affiliation and spare us pan-Arab antagonism to help heal wounds and avoid the creation and deepening of new wounds.

Those who know the facts and the better ways, but say the contrary are the ones I tell: Let us appeal to our conscience; let us look to the future. We should not let short-term and petty interests shake our depths, block out our sensibilities, and splinter the nation—land and masses—in the future. Designs and covetous parties are coming from every direction. Let us avoid ignorance and unenlightement. Let us avoid our Arab pre-Islamic times, after which Islam came to fight off those days and cleanse our spirits of them. I see and feel, and every Arab observer also feels, that we are on the verge of going back to this pre-Islamic era, while realizing that today's pre-Islamism—if we are to experience it at all—will, due to progress, have a much broader effect and is much more dangerous than yesterday's pre-Islamism.

Let us say something together. Let us say a just word which will benefit the nation, Iraq, and Kuwait, and which will prevent the aggressor from continuing his aggression. We will therefore be providing support to rescue the aggressor and victim and save the whole nation.

The problem is the occupation of Kuwait. So, do not depart from it; do not say the problem is that of foreign forces. We are not for the presence of foreign forces. Syria is not for the presence of foreign forces anywhere in the Arab homeland. This is how it was in the past, and this is how Syria is now. [applause and chanting]

However, our urgent problem is not the foreign forces. The problem began before the foreign forces got here. The problem is what brought the foreign forces here. Therefore, let us resolve our problem, which is an inter-Arab problem. And when we resolve this inter-Arab problem, the foreign forces will leave. They will leave because the Arab problem—which is the occupation of Kuwait and its annexation after cancellation of the state—is the reason declared by everyone—Arabs and foreigners—for which and based on which the foreign forces have come to the region.

Therefore, let us snatch this pretext away from the hands of the foreigners. Let us resolve our problem and say after that: O foreigners, we have resolved our problem, which you said you came here for. Now leave our countries and Arab homeland. They say repeatedly they will not stay in the region after the problem of Kuwait is resolved. Their officials—political and military—repeat this on a semi-daily basis. Let us tell them after we resolve the problem that it has ended and does not exist anymore. They will undoubtedly withdraw. If they do not withdraw, we will then be one Arab rank without any differences at all, looking for means and methods which we deem useful to get these foreigners out of the Arab land. [applause and chanting]

Foreign troops are one of the symptoms of the problem, one of its effects. The physician who attends to the sick treats the illness. When he treats the illness, the symptoms disappear.

A physician may try to alleviate symptoms, alleviate the pain of symptoms, soothe pains temporarily by taking care of them; I mean the symptoms of the disease. However, these symptoms will never disappear unless the disease itself is well treated. Why do we go against the course of nature, show interest in the symptoms, and deliberately overlook the sickness which produces the symptoms? The problem is as clear as the sun. There is no justification for misleading the Arab masses. All that is said contrary to this is misguidance and the one who misguides is the one who wants these foreign forces to stay, grow, and multiply on our land. He is the one who does not want these foreign forces to ever get out of our land, because he knows quite well that these foreign forces will not leave unless the basic problem—which is the occupation of Kuwait—is resolved. One more thing we should say is the following: In any case—whether foreign troops leave or not—whether these foreign troops are driven by good or bad intentions—we are faced with an inter-Arab problem whose resolution we are responsible for. We are concerned with this problem, because we are kinsmen. Let us resolve the inter-Arab problem first and then head in unison, united, and strong with each other's solidarity to this foreigner, to deal with him in the proper ways and means to secure his departure. In such a case, he is bound to leave. The misleading ones and those who speak with a different logic are not driven by any national, pan-Arab, ethical, or humanitarian excuse. Resolve the problem of Kuwait first. It is the problem of us all. It is our problem. It is the problem which has thus far brought us and placed us onto a dangerous track. So let us rectify it quickly.

Let us be honest with ourselves. We must not try to exploit emotions, in isolation of knowledge and a certain level of pan-Arab awareness, and talk about something that does not exist. There are some who say the war is now between the Arabs and foreigners. If we accept the logic of those who say this, the Arabs would now be in a state of war with the entire world. What is the reason? The world says this age—the international community in this age—does not allow a big state to swallow up another small state by force. Naturally, it also does not allow any state to swallow up another state by force and coercion. Does this conflict with our Arab values? Does this conflict with our Arab principles? Does this utterance conflict with our Arab interests? Does this conflict with our spiritual and material Arab heritage? Exactly the opposite is true. To say that the strong are not allowed to attack the weak; not to allow the big to swallow up the small; is the crux of our pan-Arab concept and our pan-Arab heritage. It is the essence of the heritage on which our generations were brought up, generation after generation.

How can we then be against ourselves? How can we be against our heritage, against our morals? Moreover, if the war was an Arab-foreign war, would it be logical for the majority of the Arabs to side with the foreigners? How could this be? How can the truth of this saying be proved? How can one prove that reality is not the opposite of this, the opposite of what these gentlemen say? Once again I say, let us return to our conscience, let us look at our general, broad, and profound interests. Let us deal with one another faithfully and sympathetically, with the true Arab character which we and our fathers and forefathers have always lauded. Nobody should ever think that we in Syria proceed from a position of enmity toward Iraq. It is true that we are in disagreement; it is true we have been in disagreement for a long time, but our position in such matters like the one we are discussing now cannot stem from a bilateral disagreement. It stems from a historic concept beginning in the past and extending deep into the future. It includes the deep and basic interests of the nation—and we and Iraq are two parts of this nation and from this nation. [applause]

Our endeavors are prompted by an eagerness to safeguard all countries of the [Arab] nation. I would like to say in all clarity that if we take national interests into account, then in this argument of ours lies the interests of the Iraqi people before the interests of any other country. Regardless of the differences that we have, we are the sons of a single nation. [applause and chants] Over many long years, we have continued to stand sincerely on the side of Iraq. We have been looking for the course that we could chart, the act which we could perform to render benefits to Iraq in more than one problem. This happened over the past few years, during the Iraq-Iran war. It is also taking place right now. However, what are we to do when we are not the ones to decide what Iraq will do? We do not want to be the ones to decide what Iraq will do, since this is the concern of the Iraqi people. However, as brothers of this people and this country, we are pained by what pains the Iraqi people and Iraq. We will not be useful to one another if our perspective is not unified. We offered our advice in the past. We sought to halt the Iraq-Iran war immediately when it erupted, a short while after it erupted, and also years after its eruption. We had our own vision regarding how this war could have been halted. However, Iraq did not share this vision. And we could have never shared its vision in this regard.

The days have shown that our perspective was sound. [applause] We were pained by the victims and the destruction. We sought to do something useful. We wanted to do this in a manner reflecting our conviction that the war would be halted and the two warring states would emerge as two friendly, neighborly countries. I said this not only in my meeting with our brothers in Iraq, but also in my meetings with popular Arab organizations. Now, I remember that I mentioned this in my meeting over many long hours with Arab lawyers at my office. At the time, I had a proposal reflecting our vision in Syria. We thought that if this proposal were to be accepted, it would halt the war in a manner that would allow Iran and Iraq to end hostilities after sustaining this level of losses. The two countries would have emerged in a state of amity and friendship that was supposed to grow with the passage of time. The Syrian perspective was not acceptable to the brothers there. Now, eight years later, our brethren in Iraq have returned to what we said years ago. We are pleased with the reconciliation and accord between Iraq and Iran because at all times, since the inception of the war, in the middle of the war, and eight years later, throughout the war years, we wanted the war to be halted, because we wanted the shedding of Arab blood in Iraq and Islamic blood in Iran to stop. Now too, what we want stopped is taking place. The words that we are saying come from the depths of our conscience, from the depths of our pan-Arab conscience.

Speaking in this regard and communicating similar meanings, I said at the Arab summit: I am saying these words of mine while in a state of complete tranquillity, while I am as close as I have ever been to the total chastity of the heart, because I believe that the impending danger is grave. I would like to repeat now this theme and say the same words. I am speaking from the depths of my conscience. I feel that I am speaking on behalf of every Syrian and Arab citizen who wants their nation to achieve progress, success, and prosperity. [applause]

I say that the way before invasion is blocked and can never succeed. The way of invasion is one thing, and the way of Arab unity is another. In my opinion, the way of Arab unity is open, though only partially. Nevertheless, it is a long road. It is a road paved with fatigue and effort, but also with loyalty, good intentions, and the will of the masses. Let us proceed down the path of Arab unity, and not the path of Arab annexation. The first is passable, although with difficulty. The other, however, is blocked. It is blocked irrespective of the method and means we use, and regardless of our intentions and the weapons we employ to realize these intentions, as long as the way is one of invasion and annexation.

If this is the situation, once again, let us, Arabs, cooperate, to remove ourselves from what we are in. It is an impasse, and cooperation is capable of removing us from this impasse. Whoever cooperates with his brothers does not bear disgrace. Joint Arab action and the pan-Arab route are the ways of dignity and honor. So let us take it and proceed down that route. Let us leave Kuwait for its people. We are confident that in the final analysis, we will all be in one Arab homeland from the Gulf to the ocean, as long as we remain as one Arab nation. [applause and chanting]

There are those who wonder—within the framework of delusion or within the framework of erroneous thinking—they wonder how Arab forces can be present on Saudi Arabian territories while the foreign troops are there. Imagine this fallacy. How could we Arabs be present on Arab land if there are foreigners on this territory? Since the foreigners are on Saudi territory, the Arabs should leave it to those foreigners. Is it not strange for some to claim that this logic is the pan-Arab logic? The situation is like someone who walks upside down. They want us to leave the whole Gulf, to leave the Arabs of the Gulf, to the foreigners who are now there. The presence of the foreigners is an additional motive to the Arabs to send their forces and citizens to these Arab territories. But in all cases, the Arabs must participate in protecting any Arab brother who feels worried or threatened by another Arab brother. The objective here is not to fight the other threatening brother, but to prevent him from aggression—and thus, help him.

We are a platoon or one of the Arab military groups present in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, alongside other Arab forces—Egyptian and Moroccan—and forces from Muslim states. In this way, we are performing a pan-Arab act and not a regional task, except inasmuch as the regional task is linked to the pan-Arab task, or as the regional interest is linked to the pan-Arab interest. We the pan-Arabists, serve pan-Arabism courageously, unequivocally, and without exploitation, and perform pan-Arab duties. We help the brother when he needs it. We do what is needed to prevent a brother from attacking his brother. Thus, we are helping the two together. We are doing something that makes these Arab citizens who live in the Gulf states feel that their protectors are the Arabs, and not the foreigners. Their protectors are their relatives—we and other Arabs like us—and not the foreigners. Inasmuch as we are true pan-Arabists, we must send more troops to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states if they so wish. [applause and chanting]

This is because Arab forces should be the ones to protect the Arab, and, with time, with the development of these forces, and the development of circumstances, should replace foreign forces. This is the way. Perhaps it could be the most effective way for the departure or evacuation of these forces.

Did they forget that this land, which they are talking about and which they want us and other Arabs to abandon, is an Arab land? Did they forget that the people who live on this soil, the Gulf soil, are also Arab citizens, and that we should stand with them in this matter, in which they are suffering great hardship. I repeat: This does not mean we hate others; it does not mean we hate any of the other Arabs; it is not a war that we declare on other Arabs, but a victory for everybody. We stand by our brother, whether he was the one who did injustice or to whom injustice was done: We stand by the former in that we prevent him from pursuing further injustice; we stand by the latter in that we remove this injustice.

This is what Syria is doing. This is what I call upon every Arab to do. This is what every Arab should do. We do not suffer the complexes of the foreigner. If others are suffering these complexes for reasons peculiar to them, we, for our historical reasons, do not suffer these complexes...[interrupted by applause] because, since the independence of this country, our people have stood firmly against all foreign schemes whose aim is to stab at Arab causes, or to stab at any other cause. In the recent past, we were the ones who clashed with a number of Atlantic countries' forces, and this is not a secret, and nobody has forgotten it yet because it is very recent.

We and the struggling forces in Lebanon have stood before a sea that was full of the ships and fleets of NATO. We did not fear them; we did not worry; we did not go back. We maintained our composure, our courage. This is because we had the belief that we were standing on solid ground. We had the belief that we were siding with justice, right. We were in our land, in our homes. They traversed tens of thousands of miles to attack our people and our lands. This mandated that we resist strongly and tenaciously and that we not accept any middle solution. This is what happened. We resisted, held our ground, and gained victory.

The United States itself has not struck at the Armed Forces of any other Arab country in this age, as I remember, or since World War II. It has not done so, as I remember now, since World War I and before that. The United States has not struck the Armed Forces of any Arab country, except for Syria. The Syrian Army is the only Arab Army that was struck and bombarded by United States planes and fleets when we both were in Lebanon. Nevertheless, our voice has remained loud and strong. We received their bombs and were not afraid.

Their planes bombarded us and we were not afraid, but their planes fell. [applause and chants]

While we were doing all this, and when we stood in Lebanon in the face of Israel, the United States, Britain, the French and Italian forces and other Atlantic forces, and some of our brothers showed malicious joy and were involved in acts that drastically contravened Arab interests, Arab traditions, and Arab ethics. However, we harbor no rancor. We will not pause before these matters. We will continue to sympathize with brothers and will continue to work for their interests as we work for our own. This, however, will be done in accordance with our convictions and ideals. No one will ever drag us to give up our convictions. [applause]

I call on everyone and extend my hand, in your name and in the name of our people, for everyone to put aside all grudges and to stand together as one rank over which love and cooperation will reign so that we may build an Arab solidarity, deepen Arab brotherhood, and invoke the profound essence of Arab unity, provided that we proceed from sound ground and sound preliminary steps—foremost of which is that there be no aggressor and no victim among us. I hope—I beseech God to guide us to the correct path.

Sons, men, and women: How glad I feel to take part in your graduation ceremony and to watch your exercises, which made me—along with all those present—feel dignified and take pride in the distinguished level which you have attained during your training.

There is no doubt that what makes us still more happy and joyous is that our people in every Syrian city and village can partake in watching what we have seen this evening. I am sure our people would feel glad and happy while seeing this huge mass, this huge course of its sons performing their exercises and training which shows a high level, and proves that you have exerted immense efforts and practiced hard, serious training to qualify for any eventful day or mission. You are now graduating fighter paratroopers who can use the various weapons and methods according to the situation and the mission you will undertake. I thank you, sons—men and women—for what you have done, the efforts you have exerted. I take pride in you. I thank your trainers...[interrupted by applause and chants] who lived with you and exerted great efforts, which deserve praise and appreciation.

Sons, men, and women: The party leadership has decided—and it is well known that you are Ba'thists and members of the party—that all of you should be active members. [applause and chanting] The party leadership has decided to grant all of you, by virtue of the efficiency and struggle you have demonstrated while at school and after you enrolled in this course, the honor of active membership in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The leadership, moreover, has decided that you should be active members in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party starting today. [applause]

The leadership has also approved your suggestion to name your course after the hero martyr 'Ali Haj Sa'id. You—the youths—have upheld the slogan of sacrifice and giving. You have proven this in the past, and thus you have always been the brandished sword which defeated every enemy and everyone who conspired against the country. You have made sacrifices, offered up martyrs. The martyrs' place is next to God and in the depths of our hearts. Our history shall immortalize the martyrs. Martyr 'Ali Haj Sa'id was among those martyrs. [applause and chants]

Sons: Today is a new crossroads for you, after which you will join the battalions of young paratroopers. Your training and efforts have given you experiences and wide knowledge. This means that you have a responsibility to shoulder. So, you should always rise up to the level of this responsibility, and bear in mind that you are the youth of this homeland, and the vanguard of its fedayeen. Bear also in mind that Syria—its youth being in the vanguard—faces every challenge with the saying that we have borne in our minds and hearts: It is martyrdom or victory—martyrdom first, because it is the way to victory. [applause and chanting]

Sons, paratroopers: My greetings to you. My love to you. Convey my greetings to your fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and all your family who are my family. May the peace and mercy of God be upon you.

President Reportedly To Visit Tehran This Year

NC1209201490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The newspaper AL-HAYAH, published in Cairo and London, has cited a senior Syrian official as saying that Damascus is mediating between Iran and Egypt and that the two sides are cooperating with the mediation efforts. Diplomatic sources expect relations between Cairo and Tehran to be restored simultaneously with a visit by President Hafiz al-Asad to the Iranian capital. The diplomatic sources say that arrangements are under way for that visit, which is expected to take place before the end of this year. The Iranian ambassador to Syria is currently in his country for that purpose.

Minister Returns From Arab League Session

JN1109132590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this afternoon after participating in the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council at the level of foreign minister in Cairo yesterday. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Ershad Leaves for Turkey on Evacuation Mission

BK1209130890 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] President Ershad left Dhaka Wednesday [12 September] for Ankara to see the evacuation of stranded Bangladeshi nationals from Turkey. He was seen off at the Zia International Airport by Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed. Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hussain, ministers, the chiefs of the three services, and high civil and military officials were present. The president is accompanied by Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud.

During his stay in Turkey, President Ershad will visit [placename indistinct], close to the Iraq-Turkey border where many Bangladeshis are encamped. President Ershad will have talks with the Turkish president, Turgut Ozal, on the repatriation of Bangladeshi nationals and the general situation over the Gulf crisis.

Nationals Returning From Gulf Totals 17,400

BK1209164490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Bangladesh has appreciated the generous assistance by the international community for the repatriation of its nationals from the Middle East. Briefing newsmen in Dhaka this afternoon, a Foreign Office spokesman said there has been a very positive and considerable response to the appeals for help by Bangladesh from many friendly countries. He said in a letter to Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, President Ershad expressed his deep appreciation for the Japanese aid of $12 [as heard] to the International Organization for Migration—IOM—for repatriating Asians, including Bangladeshis. Japan had earlier given $10 million to the UNDRO [United Nations Disaster Relief Organization] and ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] for the evacuees in Jordan. The EEC's chartering flights for evacuation of Bangladeshi nationals has considerably eased the situation.

The spokesman said the repatriation process is continuing with an average of 2,500 Bangladeshis arriving in Dhaka every day. Our representative says more than 17,400 Bangladeshis have so far returned home in 61 flights in since the repatriation flights began on the 27th of last month.

India

Envoy Again Urges UN To Allow Food in Kuwait

BK1309092390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] India has again urged the UN Security Council to allow shipment of food for the thousands of its nationals stranded in Iraq and Kuwait. The Indian ambassador at the United Nations, Mr. C.R. Gharekhan, met the Security Council president, Mr. Yuliy Vorontsov, of the Soviet Union yesterday evening and expressed dismay at the delay in allowing New Delhi to send emergency food supplies. He demanded that the Indian request be cleared urgently. Mr. Vorontsov was sympathetic to the Indian request and said he would do his best to expedite the matter. The Security Council members have been discussing the problem for several days, but failed to reach any conclusion mainly because of resistance from the United States and Britain. Cuba and Yemen have favored allowing of food under all circumstances.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council is again meeting this evening to consider the request by India and some other countries. Sources close to the Council say there may not be any problem in getting India's request through, but trouble could arise if its fate is tied to the procedures being considered for allowing humanitarian aid through the UN-imposed embargo. In case the Council is unable to reach a consensus, a vote may be forced by some members.

Nationals Urged To Remain in Kuwait, Iraq

BK1209161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] New Delhi has again appealed to the Indian nationals in Kuwait and Iraq not to rush to al-Basrah, Baghdad, or Amman as it would not be possible for them to get adequate attention in these places. In Kuwait, about 7,750 Indians are being cared for in community kitchens set up by the Indian associations there. The law and order situation is deteriorating and no public transport is available there. Only rice and sugar are available in cooperative stores. Banks do only limited transactions.

So far, about 30,000 Indian nationals have been flown home from Amman. Indians living in Dubayy have contributed over 500,000 dirhams equivalent to 25 lakh rupees to help Indians arriving in Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq. An Indian community relief fund has been set up for this purpose. The fund will be used to supply and airlift articles like water bottles, milk powder, and medicines and blankets for the Indians stranded in Jordan.

Our Gulf correspondent Avinash Goel reports that the Indian Embassy in Muscat is also rushing drinking water to Jordan. The Hindu Mahajan Association of Amman is funding this project under which water will be sent to Jordan continuously for 15 days.

Air India today lifted 41 tonnes of medicines, oil, blankets, and foodgrains provided by the central government. These were carried by six flights which left Bombay for Amman. So far, 197 tonnes of these items have been sent to Amman since such a program started on Monday [10 September]. These items are meant for Indian nationals stranded on Jordanian border.

Spokesman Welcomes Cambodian Agreement

BK1209160590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] India has welcomed the agreement reached by the Cambodian parties in Jakarta for the setting up of a supreme national council to occupy Cambodia's seat in the United Nations. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that New Delhi is happy to note that the Jakarta meeting ended successfully. India looks forward to the convening of the Paris Conference on Cambodia to work out the details of arrangements for a complete settlement of the issue.

Hindu Students Arrested; March Banned in Kashmir

BK1209154390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Jammu, India, Sept 12 (AFP)—Hundreds of Hindu students were arrested Wednesday when police halted a banned a 112-mile (180 kilometre) march into the Kashmir Valley advertised as a bid "to save Kashmir" from Moslem secessionists, police said. Thousands of Moslems meanwhile closed shops and universities to protest the deaths of 29 Moslem bus passengers killed Tuesday in the crossfire between security forces and Moslem militants in the Kashmir Valley, police reported.

The would-be marchers, belonging to the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), were stopped and hauled into temporary custody in the garrison town of Udhampur, 40 miles (64 kilometers) from the winter capital, a police spokesman said. The arrested, including the ABVP general secretary and its convenor, were sent in waiting buses to camps set up in colleges and police stations in Jammu.

Witnesses said dozens protesting the government ban on the march to Srinagar, the state's violence-torn summer capital, were injured and a curfew had been imposed in Udhampur. A spokesman of the ABVP, the student wing of the pro-hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, said that 300 party activists had been jailed in defiance of a government order to call it off. They were marching with 10,000 others to challenge the militants in India's sole Moslem-majority state.

As an apparent state government compromise, seven ABVP members have reportedly been flown into Srinagar to unfurl the Indian flag as a symbolic protest even though a moslem militant warned against doing so. Meanwhile in major towns in the valley, buses and cars disappeared from the streets in response to a two-day action called by the All Kashmir Passenger and Goods Transporters Welfare Association (AKPGTWA) and some militant groups, witnesses said.

The association threatened to launch an indefinite strike starting Monday if the Indian Government failed to take suitable action against those responsible for the bus killings in northern Kashmir, an AKPGTWA spokesman told reporters. The slaughter on the Srinagar-bound bus carrying 54 people, which triggered calls for an enquiry in parliament in New Delhi Wednesday, reportedly occured when the bus ignored a warning to stop.

In the ensuing fight between four militant passengers and border security forces, a package of explosives burst into flames and 19 of the victims burned to death, Border Security Force (BSF) officials said. They said 10 of the victims died in the crossfire. Meanwhile 12 people, including six militants shot dead by para-military forces, were reported killed Wednesday, taking the death toll in the bloody secessionist campaign to 1,576 since the beginning of the year.

India has accused Pakistan, which controls one-third of the valley and disputes India's control over the rest, of aiding the militants. Pakistan has denied the charge but professes sympathy with the moslem militants.

Five Killed, 45 Arrested in Kashmir

BK1209144890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] In Kashmir Valley five persons, including a terrorist, were killed at different places during the last 24 hours. Forty-five subversives, including eight Pakistan-trained militants, were arrested and a big quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered during the searches by the security forces in some localities of Srinagar today.

11 Killed, Six Injured in Punjab Violence

BK1209153090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] In Punjab, 11 persons, including one terrorist, have been killed and six injured in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman one terrorist was killed in an encounter with the security forces in the Chehata area of Amritsar District. Terrorists shot dead a farmer in Mukhivand and seriously injured five passengers of the Frontier Mail [train] near Raiya. A portion of the Amritsar-Khem Karan railway track was damaged in a powerful explosion between Valtoha and Varandha railway stations late last night. Elsewhere, the terrorists shot dead eight persons, including four members of a family, in separate incidents in Gurdaspur District and one person in Tanda area of Hoshiarpur District.

Iran

Khamene'i Comments on U.S. 'Outrageous Policies'

LD1209141390 Tehran IRNA in English 1337 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Revolution on Wednesday lashed out at the U.S. for its attempt to set up a defense system and to expand the scope of its influence in the Persian Gulf.

"The U.S. must have learnt a lesson from past events and its vulnerable presence. The Americans must have remembered how a number of committed Muslim youths drived [as received] them out of Lebanon," Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i told a group of visiting people. Castigating the governments allowing the aggressor U.S. to enter their countries and the region, Ayatollah Khamene'i vowed that Muslim nations would never allow Washington to set up a security, defense system in the region.

"Confronting the aggression, ambitions and schemes of the U.S. to encroach upon the Persian Gulf is considered jihad (holy war) and any one killed for this purpose is a martyr," the leader of the Islamic Revolution said.

"We will never permit the U.S. to make a foothold or turn the region into its zone of influence wherever we are present and have influence and anywhere our words as the voice of Islam is heard by Muslims," the revered ayatollah made it clear.

The leader reiterated Iran's strong opposition to what he described as "Washington's outrageous policies" in the Persian Gulf and maintained that preserving the security of the region rests solely with regional nations.

"Foreigners's defence of regional governments brings shame and disgrace to these governments. If these governments had relied on their nations they would have defended their national prestige, honor and dignity through resistance and devotions," the ayatollah said.

"Those governments defending themselves with the help of foreigners have humiliated their nations. The stain of such humiliation will not be effaced for years," he feared.

Elsewhere in his speech, the leader of the Islamic Revolution voiced his full support for the assembly of experts and its approvals.

"The decisions and regulations approved by the assembly of experts are all correct in their forms and when a matter is passed by it even opponents must practically support it, the leader said.

Ayatollah Khamene'i said the experts assembly holds a high and great position and has always paid its debts to the Iranian nation under the most crucial and dangerous conditions.

Ayatollah Khamene'i called on the Iranian people to actively participate in the forthcoming experts assembly elections and to vote for competent candidates.

Present at the meeting were the model children of martyrs, officials of the Shahid (martyr) Foundation and the foundation for the oppressed and disabled and Iranian sportsmen who are to participate in the Asian Games in Beijing.

Calls For Jihad Against U.S.

LD1209143290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Address by Ayatollah Khamene'i to a gathering of students and martyrs families on 12 September; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, as you were informed at the beginning of this news bulletin, outstanding children of martyrs from all parts of the country, together with the deputy cultural director of the Martyrs Foundation, the disabled from Mashad and Tehran and Kordestan Province, several officials of the Islamic Revolution Martyrs and Disabled Foundation, some of the pupils who are members of the union of Islamic students societies and schools in Tehran, instructors from teacher training centers from all over the country, some of the basijis from Qazvin, the Islamic Republic of Iran sports team which was sent to the Asian games in Beijing, and officials of the country's physical training organization met with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, this morning. At this gathering the guardian of the cause of the Muslims made a detailed speech. We bring this news bulletin to an end by broadcasting the text of his eminence's speech and by announcing the time, which is 1430. Good day and God be with you.

[Begin Khamene'i recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] The Iranian nation has shown a great deal of self-sacrifice. The Iranian nation has shown a great deal of steadfastness. Today when, due to the situation of Iraq in the world, governments, international organizations, powers, and all are confronting Iraq; they are revealing their secrets. Today many of the governments that supported Iraq against Iran during the past 10 years are now admitting their support sprang from their opposition to Iran and their desire to crush Islam and the Islamic revolution of Iran. Today they admit that they were hostile toward the Islamic movement of the Iranian nation. Who started this hostility? This hostility was started by powers, those who wished to plunder the world, who wished to plunder the nations, and who regarded Islam as an obstacle to their designs and regarded the Islamic awakening and Islamic movement as an obstacle in their path.

They were right, too. Islam and the Islamic awakening confront and will confront any kind of domination. Any sincere Islamic movement will attract the Muslims of the world who constitute a vast number of people. This is a danger for the big powers. This is why world domination and world arrogance were not as frightened of other revolutions in other parts of the world as they were of the revolution based on Islam, because they know that the Muslims inhabit large areas of the world and the most sensitive parts of the world from an economic point point of view, from the point of view of resources, from a strategic point of view, and from a social point of view.

The meeting point of three large and important continents of the world—namely, Asia, Africa, and Europe—is under the control of the Muslims. The most important oil deposits and many other world resources are in the possession of the Muslims.

Today world arrogance and empires of wealth and power know that if Islam is revived in the hearts of the Muslims and in Islamic societies their interests, which are based on bullying, on domination, and on bipolarization of the world will be threatened. World arrogance always wants certain countries it can bully and plunder. It wants control over the wealth and power of the world, and wishes to see certain nations who work hard and toil have their resources plundered. This is what world arrogance wants. They become hostile toward any movement that confronts them and Islam confronts them. This is the reason why world arrogance is opposed to Iran. This is the reason for the profound hostility of America toward the Islamic revolution and toward Islam; and this enmity will never end.

In this contest the decisive factor, the factor which can decide the contest in favor of one side and can tilt the balance, the factor that can decide which of the two sides will win, is truth—being useful for the sake of humanity. This factor consists of faithful hearts and firm steps and this is the factor we possess.

The events of the Persian Gulf have today flooded the world with various news items. Meanwhile, here and there, one hears various interpretations on the stance of Iran and the heart-felt cry of the Islamic Republic. Each person in line with his own inclination utters a remark, presents a commentary on the situation in the region and the Iranian stance against these events.

It is necessary for us to inform all the Muslim nations of the region that we are strongly opposed to the presence of America in this region, to the greed of America—something which we had earlier guessed and which is now being better revealed in their recent remarks—and to America's demanding, bullying, and shameless attitude. [crowds chants in endorsement]

On what ground do they say they must provide for the region's security and that the lasting security of the region requires their presence here? What has the security of this region got to do with you?

In the first place, this region's security is the business of the region's nations. You are buyers of the oil belonging to these nations, so you had better line up outside and refrain from interfering in their affairs. Let them provide for the region's security on their own. They will then export their oil; they will sell it to anyone as they deem suitable.

Is this logical for someone from the other end of the world—a government relying solely on its power and bullying character—to come over here to say that, because he is the customer [of the oil] here he should provide for the security of this place? Especially if what he calls security is in fact anti-security and against the interests of the nations of this region? What kind of human logic can accept such an argument? Except for bullying Americans and other bullying characters of the world who would ever make such remarks and who would stick to them? They say: Because we need the region's oil, we must come here to bring military forces and build—by ourselves—a defense and security system. If you set up a defense and security system here, then that would be against the security of the nations of this region. You want to set up a foothold for yourselves in other people's homes, even if that comes at the cost of discomfort to the homeowners. What kind of logic can accept such argument?

Yet they utter these remarks so strongly and without any feeling of shame. One wonders how shameless they are.

If you [addressing the United States] see that today the region is insecure because of Iraq's attack, you are responsible for it. It was you who armed Iraq and you did something that encouraged him to feel strong and to then attack Kuwait. Thus, once again you are the source which brings about insecurity. If you had not helped Iraq as much as you did—something which you did on account of your jealousy and hatred for Islam, the Islamic Republic and the Islamic revolution—then the region would not have been faced with insecurity.

For many years, we have been declaring that we are ready to sit down with the littoral countries to pool our resources to make the Persian Gulf a safe place, to cut off the hands of the aggressors from the region, and to prevent anyone from committing aggression against the rights of someone else. That is our duty, the duty of nations in the region. What has it got to do with you [the United States]?

They [Americans] say that they have to set up a security system here. Utter shame on the nations and governments that allow the aggressor America to come here to plan in accordance with its own interests and to set up a security system in the Persian Gulf and the Persian Gulf region. Muslims will not allow it; the Muslim nations will not allow it.

Anybody who stands up to fight and confront America's aggression, greed, and plans and policies aimed at committing aggression in the Persian Gulf region will be participating in the jihad on the path of Allah, and anybody who is killed on that path will be regarded as a martyr. [crowd chants]

We will not permit the Americans to establish a foothold for themselves in the region, where we are present, the region where we have influence and any place where our word—which is the word of Islam—reaches the ear of a Muslim; and [we will not permit the Americans] to turn it into the sphere of their power, and to acquire the power to administer the affairs of the Muslims, especially the affairs of the sacred regions of the Muslims and the two honorable sanctuaries.

It is surprising the Americans are not learning a lesson from past events. They have seen how vulnerable their presence is. They have seen how in Lebanon a handful of committed and Muslim youths, that is, believers in Islam, packed up their bags and pushed them out of Lebanon. How have they forgotten it? These powers are vulnerable. What is not vulnerable is he, the man, human power which relies on faith; he is not vulnerable. He will be victorious eventually, as you can see today, the nation of Iran, after tolerating hardship, remaining steadfast and patient in the face of hardship, became victorious.

Today the entire world bears witness that Iran became victorious. Both superpowers stood against us. Behind them were all of Europe, NATO, the Warsaw Pact, and the Arab reaction. All of them stood against the Islamic revolution. They persuaded Iraq to heat up the war against us, and they surrounded us. We stood firm and did not stretch a begging hand toward anyone. We relied on God. Our nation stood with all its might and totally relied on God. It did not fear and was not scared. You compare today's situation with the situation of five or six years ago; today the nation of Iran has realized all its demands with pride. Its freed POW's are coming home. The Iranian nation's political prestige is high in the world. All our predictions have come true.

On that day we said: Punish the aggressor, for if you do not punish him, you will be trapped by his evil. Now they see it has come true. On that day we told many governments: Rely on your nations, the United States is of no use to you. Today they see evidence of this. They have invited the Americans and have brought them, and are now waiting to see when they will make a decision and what sort of decision they will make. Is this good? Is this a source of pride for a government which is, on the surface, Muslim? Or is it a cause of shame? This would have not happened, had they relied on their nations. The nations would have stood with their blood, with their honor, and with their determination to safeguard their national prestige and national honor and pride.

When a force enters a country to defend that country, it will consider itself the owner, and will dictate its terms to the hosts. It will have expectations from the hosts and will humiliate them. These governments, which intend to defend themselves by the hand of aliens, have humiliated their own nation. The stain of this humiliation will not be wiped out for many years. Is this good?

These are amazing lessons. You, the dear nation, you the youth, particularly you the youth, study these lessons. You can see your future path clearly ahead of you. Choose this path: Any nation that relies on God and that believes in itself, its own identity and might, and any nation that understands that it is only itself that can defend its rights, will become honarable and proud and will become victorious in international arenas. It will become dear in the eyes of other nations. Tighten your link with God.

I deem it necessary to explain a point about the elections for the Assembly of Experts, too. First, the dear nation should note that the Assembly of Experts has a highly lofty status. It is this assembly that should save the nation at the most critical and sensitive moments of our nation's and our system's life.

It is these individuals who have been elected by the people who should perform their duty to the nation in sensitive junctures. The election of the leader is an important and fundamental task and a deciding factor, a responsibility that has been placed on the shoulders of the Assembly of Experts. It is not a minor task. This assembly holds a very important position. The people should not underestimate the importance of these elections, in which they should all participate. The should all feel it is their duty to send upright individuals to this assembly. Of course, the people have shown their readiness, in the course of the past 11-12 years; they have shown that they are well capable of performing their duties in the most sensitive junctures. We should likewise perform our duties to the people. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, some remarks were made in connection with the Assembly of Experts which I followed and to which I listened. Much of what was said in connection with the Assembly of Experts was wrongly said. Much of it was said irresponsibly. Why should one make a remark that may shed doubt on the decrees of the experts' assembly—decrees that are firm and decisive? Those who compromise the experts' assembly today are from among 70-80 individuals chosen by the nation, amid which perhaps 30-40 are great ulema and high-ranking mujtaheds, many of whom have outstanding revolutionary records, many of whom were praised by the imam on numerous occasions, many of whom shouldered major responsibilities in the course of the revolution. When these individuals issue a decree or pass issues as their rules and regulations, there is no reason we should have any qualms about them. If one harbors any doubts as to the regulations passed by such dignataries, then one cannot trust regulations of any other assembly. Those who make remarks should heed the consequences those remarks may entail. They should also understand how the enemy may benefit from what they have uttered. Why should a human being utter a remark that gladdens the foes, saddens the friends, and demoralizes the nation? However, our nation, praise be to God, has not been and will not be demoralized. Our nation is extremely dynamic and highly intelligent.

No! The decisions made by the Experts, the regulations drawn up by them, their legislations, are all correct in form; they have considered something expedient and have ratified it. There is nothing wrong with that. No one has the right to protest. Before any decision is reached in the assembly, of course every person who wishes to protest or argue a point or has something to say should say it. However, when something has been ratified and once the matter has been closed, then even those opposed to it should defend the decision. [passage omitted]

What is important is that in the elections—the elections for the Assembly of Experts—the people should act with alacrity. Open your eyes and beseech the almighty for assistance. See what kind of individuals you are electing, choose upright individuals, individuals who are faithful and able, those who can discern what is to the benefit of the people with respect to their religion and life in general, individuals whose piety prevents them from going astray, individuals who are knowledgable, pious, and revolutionary, individuals whose records of the past few years indicate that they have been striding along the right path. This is a very significant matter, and our dear nation should pay heed. [passage omitted] Those who wish to be elected and those who wish to put forward their candidate should take religious laws into account. In choosing their own candidate, they should not criticize another candidate. No individual and no group should assume they have the right to criticize those they do not accept. [passage omitted] Do not let the existing climate of unity and piety in society be altered. The enemy intends to preoccupy the people with the domestic issues and turn them against one another—to induce them to pitch ranks against one another. The wise individuals in the society, the intelligent strata of people who have a sense of responsibility should take care not to stride toward the wishes of the enemy. I beseech the almighty to grant you success. [passage omitted]

Papers Reiterate Holy War Call

LD1309093990 Tehran IRNA in English 0823 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—The Wednesday speech of leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i stressing the need to stand against the U.S. threats in the Persian Gulf region and calling for a holy war, jihad, against the U.S. aggression in the region was the subject of editorials in the two morning dailies on Thursday.

The Persian daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" reflected on Ayatollah Khamene'i's call for a holy war against the Americans and the U.S. invasion of the region repeating the words of Iran's spiritual leader that those who lose their lives in that war will be martyrs.

The daily commented that the path shown by Ayatollah Khamene'i must be followed by all devout Muslims.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI deplored Saudi's subordinate policies towards the U.S. saying that King Fahd has desecrated the sanctity of the holy shrines in Mecca and al-Madinah by admitting the Americans into the Saudi soil and more so by providing them with the kind of entertainments which outrage the religious aura of a land revered for its religious significance.

Among Saudi acts for making the Americans feel at home on Saudi soil, the daily said, is its order with a brewery in Amman, Jordan for two million cans of beers plus the importation of 10,000 Egyptian prostitutes to beguile the leisure hours of the U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia.

The daily said: "Such a high treason being committed in the land of prophecy and in front of the prophet's shrine and next to the qibla of the world Muslims disreputes the Muslim world."

Elsewhere the daily reflected on the visit to Tehran by Iraqi Foreign Minsiter Tariq 'Aziz earlier this week in relation with a non-hostility agreement between the two countries reminding that on his return trip home the Iraqi official had made it clear that Iraq's declaration of commitment to the Iraq-Iran Algiers Agreement of 1975 is independent of other developments in the Persian Gulf.

It said that Iran's agreement to receive Tariq 'Aziz in Tehran was "a big diplomatic victory" for Iran.

"ABRAR," another Persian daily, reflected on Ayatollah Khamene'i's speech to a large group of Iranian officials and visiting guests on the need for standing against the U.S. threats in the region echoing highlights of his warnings as well as a counterthreat by him that "the Muslim people of the region would not allow the formation by Americans of a security and defense system in the region."

"To struggle against aggression and against U.S. avarice and its conspiracies for grabbing the Persian Gulf would be a war for a divine cause, and whoever should be killed for furthering that cause would be a martyr," said the daily, quoting the leader of the Islamic Republic in the same gathering Wednesday.

The daily commented in its editorial that the U.S. troops are not in the region to fight off aggression, but that their very presence in the region is "a blatant aggression against sacred Muslim lands and Muslims' resources."

Tehran Radio Comments

LD1309130190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1101 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, addressed Muslims of the world yesterday and graciously declared: Struggle and confrontation against America's aggression, greed, plans, and policies will be counted as jihad on the path of God—anyone killed along this path is a martyr.

These remarks are the latest and, at the same time, the most significant stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system since the beginning of the present crisis in the Persian Gulf; but at the same time it fully corresponds with the permanent style of the revolution, that is, struggle against the hegemonists in the world.

The fact of the matter is that under the new circumstances, in the wake of the extensive deployment of forces by the United States and the West, the region has turned into a powder-keg—any small spark can blow it up and bring about a bleak future. In addition to this, the comments made by the responsible U.S. and British officials make it clear that the ultimate objective of Washington and others in dispatching forces is not just to confront the Iraqi attack on Kuwait and to compel this country to withdraw. Rather, the United States and the West intend to set up vast and permanent bases in this vital region of the world at the expense of the people of the region.

The comment made by the U.S. secretary of state, to the effect that his country plans to create a new military pact in the Middle East similar to NATO, demonstrates the depth of the U.S. conspiracy to take control of the God-given wealth of the Muslim people of the region. If Iraq were to retreat as the Americans and the westerners hope, who would be the target of this new military pact? Is the objective to prevent Iraq from launching another attack, or is the objective something greater, that is, the confrontation against Islam and the Islamic uprisings in the region?

In another part of his remarks, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i graciously added: We shall not permit America to build a foothold for itself in the region we are in and in which we have influence, nor turn it into an area of its power. At any rate, in the opinion of Islam and of the Islamic government, aggression is aggression and is condemned, whether it is launched by Iraq or by the United States; and the people of the region should be more alert than ever before and deprive the hegemonist from bringing his aggression to fruition.

Also regarding this, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i graciously said: The Muslim nations will not permit America to create a security and defense system in the region.

Velayati To Visit Iraq To Discuss Food Aid

NC1209164490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The Iranian newspaper TEHRAN TIMES reports today that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will visit Iraq soon to discuss developments in bilateral relations and the food assistance that Iran can give to Baghdad. The paper adds that Velayati received an invitation to visit Iraq as soon as possible, during his talks with his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz. During 'Aziz' recent visit to Tehran, the two countries agreed to resume diplomatic relations.

In the meantime, TEHRAN TIMES cites informed sources as saying that Iranian officials are currently considering the posibility of sending foodstuff and medicines to Iraq.

Velayati Affirms Commitment to UN Sanctions

Meets With EC Envoy

LD1209185390 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept 12, IRNA—Italian Junior Foreign Minister Claudio Lenoci conferred with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on behalf of the European Community (EC) here today. Lenoci elaborated on the Community's outlooks on the future relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and ways for expansion of these relations. He also hailed the Islamic Republic of Iran's position vis-a-vis the Persian Gulf crisis.

Velayati said Iran-Iraq peace talks and the crisis stemming from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait were "two different issues", and reiterated Iran's commitment to the United Nations resolutions.

In another report Lenoci met Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmoud Vaezi here today, and said EC foreign ministers would like to meet with Velayati in order to review expansion of EC-Iran ties. "Not only the EC countries, but also the Persian Gulf states have admitted to the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the regional stability, and its righteousness in the war," Lenoci said.

Referring to the West's regret over its past mistakes and confirmation of Tehran's righteous stances, Vaezi elaborated on Iran's principled and clear positions vis-a-vis the occupation of Kuwait by the Iraqi forces, as well as the presence of the foreign forces in the vital and strategic Persian Gulf region. Vaezi also laid stress on the policy of good neighbourly relations and maintaining of the regional security by the regional countries without the intervention of foreign forces.

Cairo Radio Report

NC1209211890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has affirmed to a European Community envoy, who met with him in Tehran today, that Iran will abide by the economic sanctions against Iraq. This comes at a time when a reliable source told the American AP news agency that Tehran has agreed to sell goods and medicine to Iraq in return for oil.

Meanwhile, Iran has announced that the talks that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz held in Tehran aimed at breaking the economic blockade imposed on Saddam Husayn's regime following his occupation of Kuwait and that Iran refuses to sign a new peace agreement with this regime.

Citing an Iranian source, the Lebanese AL-SHARQ newspaper reported today that Tehran absolutely refuses to sign a new peace agreement with the Iraqi leadership because the Algiers agreement is still valid. Iran has always abided by this agreement, but Iraq violated it and now has again accepted it.

Majles Deputy Calls for Iraq Military Alliance

TA1209181390 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Majles deputy Sadeq Khalkhali said yesterday that the Islamic Republic and Iraq should conclude a military alliance and form suicidal commando units on the basis of this alliance. Sadeq Khalkhali added that these suicidal commando units should attack Israel and turn the Persian Gulf into the graveyard of American soldiers.

Rafsanjani Calls For Help for Kuwaiti Migrants

LD1209191190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Mehri and a number of Kuwaiti migrant brothers this morning met with Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani, the president. A report on the problems and difficulties of the Muslim people in Kuwait was first submitted to the president, and he was asked for his help in providing for the needs and solving the problems and difficulties of Kuwaiti migrant brothers and sisters who are in Iran. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, described the Muslim Kuwaiti migrants as the guests of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and asked the Muslim Iranian people to help in solving their difficulties.

Pakistani Premier Sends Message to Rafsanjani

LD1309105390 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 13, IRNA—Prime Minister of Pakistan's Provisional Government Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi sent a brief message to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani while flying over Iran's air space en route to Saudi Arabia, Wednesday. In his message Prime Minister Jatoi called for overall expansion of Tehran-Islamabad ties.

He also sent similar messages to the head of the United Arab Emirates, sultan of Oman, and emir of Bahrain. According to Pakistani officials Jatoi's plans to pay pilgrimage to the holy shrines of Saudi Arabia and also hold talks with Saudi officials [sentence as received]. Prior to his departure, Jatoi called for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and said his country was fully prepared to help "Saudi brethren" defend their territorial integrity. He also called for the peaceful settlement of the regional problems.

Paper Views Helsinki Summit, Iraqi Options

LD1209165590 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept 12, IRNA—The Persian daily KAYHAN said in a commentary Wednesday that Iraq is able to capitalize on the summit talks in Helsinki between George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, and that it is now in a vantage point to get some minor concessions in exchange for her evacuation of Kuwait.

The daily also said Iraq may at the same time risk the more dangerous alternative of going to war with the U.S. forces in the region by properly enlisting the psychological support for her of the Muslim peoples of the region.

The commentary said in part:
"After the Washington-Moscow summit meeting in Helsinki the Persian Gulf crisis entered a new phase. That the U.S. head of state should need to meet the Soviet head of state after an ostentatious show of power and that it needs the Western help even after sending troops to a foreign country speaks for the potential role of the Soviets in the crisis.

"Head of the U.S. National Security Council says in the opinion of George Bush, Gorbachev is a statesman able to help Bush's international problems while in his own country he (Gorbachev) has lost his credit and is facing a disintegrated economy.

"As far as the summit talks were concerned the Soviets scored two points: first Washington's promise that the Americans would protect Soviet installations in the Persian Gulf, and second, a growing role for the Soviets to play in the region.

"The U.S. and the Soviet Union agreed in the talks that the U.S. President and his Soviet counterpart would commission their foreign ministers to contact the countries of the region and other countries so that the security of the region would be safeguarded.

"The (summit) meeting as well as the final communique is a turning point in the developments of the region.

"The Soviets have emphasized on the need to seek a political solution to the crisis and have thereby bought additional time for Iraq. On that basis Iraq is left with two options.

"One, to trust the Soviets and evacuate Kuwait getting minimal concessions, and...justify its withdrawal from Kuwait before its own people... [ellipses as received]

"Two, to disregard the agreements made between the two superpowers. In that case the Soviets who have get some concessions from the Americans will enter (the field) more actively and Iraq will have a hard way ahead. To rid herself of the present impasse Iraq will have to engage in an all-out war. Iraq still has a high military power for destruction and for ruining the region.

"Iraq can push the Israelis out of their one-month inactivity and can make them resume their hostile acts against the Palestinians, and thereby Iraq will be able to launch a psychological war against the Zionists and justify its threat of war with Israel. The negation of international talks by the Israeli foreign minister following the Washington-Moscow summit may offer a good excuse for conditioning public opinion towards that goal.

"If the Iraqi government be really committed to its declared policies in relation with the Palestinians and corrupt Arab heads of state it may exploit its current oil policies as a device with which to counteract the economic sanctions on itself.

"In the event Iraq should stick fast to those policies the result may divide the world countries, and the non-aligned states may head towards the same fate as did the Arab League.

"Should Iraq engage in an all-out war after some degree of political and international preparations and in the wake of a successful psychological war in the region then it will have rid itself from the present deadly impasse. It will then be able to mobilize the public opinion in the regional countries and thereby inflict heavy blows upon foreign forces in the region."

Editorial Views Developments in Ties With Iraq

LD1309084890 Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—The morning daily "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" Thursday editorialized on the recent developments in Tehran-Baghdad relations saying that it must be beneficial to region's peace and people. According to the paper Iran because of its good ties with both Kuwait and Iraq enjoys the opportunity to solve the Persian Gulf crisis peacefully.

"For sure political cooperation between Tehran and Baghdad will safeguard the area's tranquility and also prevent the influence and domination of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf," it said. The English daily returned that the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region was for the protection of the interests of the regional nations and stressed that they merely cared for their own interests. The editorial called on the regional countries to cooperate "to prevent outside influence and not provide opportunities or pretexts for external powers to maintain their presence in the strategically and economically important Persian Gulf."

IRNA Cites Jordanian Daily on Iraqi Relations

LD1209165790 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Athens, Sept 12, IRNA—A Jordanian daily Wednesday, commenting on the restoration of Iranian-Iraqi ties, said it was a "strategic answer against the attempts of blockade, encircling and isolation of Iraq and against the starvation of Iraqi people." Arabic daily AL-DUSTUR in its editorial said "the warmth of the Iran-Iraq meeting and the positive and promising climate that prevails in the atmosphere of relations between the two Muslim countries constitues in all sense a strategic counter-attack undertaken by Baghdad and Tehran" against the Western forces in the Persian Gulf and the Arab Peninsula.

"This is a fact," the daily continued," that weakens the U.S. hostile drive and would hasten the departure of the invaders from Arab holy lands." AL-DUSTUR said "we build all our big hopes in it," implying Iran-Iraq ties," because we know that the expected big confrontation is possible today more than at any time, a battle of the Arabs and Muslims together."

"And we also know that the U.S. is the real invading danger to the peoples of the region and Iran and Iraq are at the threshold of the threat," the daily said. Amman radio, monitored in Athens, broadcast the editorial in its daily press review. The paper advised Iran and Iraq "to heed the matter from a domestic angle and take careful account of it, because eventually they have to deal with the problem together with all that is needed of faith, unity and strength."

Papers Comment on U.S. Presence, Role in Crisis

Motives Viewed

NC0709180390 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 20 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The Question of Parity"]

[Text] The United States is well aware that the Middle East, and particularly the Persian Gulf region, is no Granada or Panama to bring it quick, inexpensive and easy victories. Nor is Saddam Husayn another Noriega to readily succumb to U.S. pressure.

In the face of the odds and the stakes involved, then may be it should be asked what is the reason underlying U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf? And in what way would it benefit from such a potentially costly, dangerous, and unpredictable undertaking? Is the U.S. bringing hundreds of thousands of troops to the region just to enforce the U.N. economic sanction against Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait?

The answer (to the above question) is definitely negative. If the U.S. forces are in the region to enforce the proposed U.N. sanction against Iraq then they are certainly going about it the wrong way. And as Mr. Perez de Cuellar has said, what the U.S. is doing is in contradiction to "the letter or the spirit" of the U.N. Security Council decision. The U.S. is, in fact, overstepping the limits of the sanction by using military might to force it—something the U.N. council decision did not provide for.

So the U.S. forces would have been here irrespective of any U.N. resolution in this connection. To make a long story short, the main motive behind U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is to reestablish its control over the world and that of the industrial countries' energy lifeline. There are definite benefits for it and that is why it is making such a massive commitment of military power. The U.S. forces are here to reestablish control and in the meantime help it dominate the world energy. If it has fallen behind in the economic competition, then it is trying to make up for it by taking the advantage of the crisis to reaffirm its superpower status. In short, it wants to have a controlling say over who gets what and how much (oil).

As has been already argued, the wars of the future will be fought in the economic arena which will be the determining factor for who will become a superpower. The U.S. technology is definitely facing a challenge from the ever growing Japanese economic prowess, a reunited Germany and a unifying Europe. It is clearly not about to let itself lose in this trilateral competition. If it cannot reassert itself in the economic-technological arena, then the best way to realize the goal might be in establishing a determining role over the source of their existence—i.e., oil—as it is doing.

If that is the case, then why are the European countries and Japan tagging along in the military blockade? The answer lies in the fact that in one way or another they are all under the influence of the U.S. and are all forced into it. The U.S. is using all kinds of measures to "persuade" them to join in. This, of course, does not mean that the industrial countries are not themselves interested to have some kind of leverage over something so essential to them.

Perhaps the most important of all the reasons why the U.S. needs the psychological—and not the military—support of Europe, Japan and all other small countries is for the sake of world public opinion. It needs and badly so to say to the international public that what is happening in the Persian Gulf is a matter of world consequences and has nothing to do with its desire to dominate. As usual the Americans would like to make it known that they are in the region to confront the evil of dictatorship, the menace to international democracy, and the possible dangers to the freedom of trade and navigation in the waterway and absolutely never to pursue any selfish ends.

To realize its goals the U.S. Army has brought the most sophisticated of the weapons available in its arsenal. And it is ready to use them, and no one in his right mind should doubt that. Many U.S. government and Congressional figures have been calling Baghdad's attention not to underestimate their resolve to use these weapons against them. And one must be a fool to do that.

In the face of this resolve by the U.S. in the pursuit of its selfish goals and the fact that they are ready to strike havoc on Baghdad, destroy it several times over if necessary, and kill thousands of innocent people if need be, should't the Iraqis do something similar? If the U.S. government has no respect for Iraqi life in its wrath why should the Iraqi government be concerned with Western life?

Iraq has raised the stakes in the crisis by saying it will hold 'captive' Westerners trapped there and in Kuwait by sending them to military bases and key installations to act as shields against possible U.S. attacks. Both the Western media and the Iraqi government have been consciously trying to avoid any reference to them as hostages.

Whether they are called captives, hostages, guests or what not is immaterial and will not bring any change in the essence of the issues involved. What should be stressed here is that there is no difference between Iraqi life and Western life. If the U.S. in a most selfish and apathetic way should plan to "beat the hell" out of Iraqis, then the Iraqi government and people should have every right to use the Westerners in that country as pawn or whatever they deem necessary.

Reasons Behind Buildup

NC0809060090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Aug 90 p 5

[Qasem Afshar commentary: "U.S. Presence in Persian Gulf Has Long-Term Motives"]

[Excerpts] As the crisis in the Persian Gulf worsens the number of foreign forces, especially Americans, increases every day. The Persian Gulf, in fact, has become a nest of nuclear and non-nuclear powered warships and aircraft carriers. [passage omitted]

And beyond the waters, in the heart of the Arabian desert, the U.S. has stationed a large number of various modern and ultra-modern fighters and warplanes as well as advanced radar and missile equipment and about 60,000 troops so far.

In addition to the sea, land and air, the Americans are also using their power in space. According to Western sources the U.S. has stationed seven military spy satellites over the region's space for surveillance of Iraqi forces.

All the American diplomats including President George Bush, stress that stationing of American foroes in the region is merely for countering any Iraqi aggression on Saudi Arabia, a country where the U.S. has vital interests.

But the question which arises here is: Are all these forces and huge war machinery and equipment necessary to prevent an aggresion by a country like Iraq? [passage omitted]

Is Iraq truly so powerful that a superpower like the U.S. should join hands with other powers such as France and Britain, and these three powers should seek help from smaller powers to prevent Iraq's aggression on Saudi Arabia? President Bush goes even further and in an interview announces that Iraq is the fourth largest military power in the world—something at which even a simple soldier would laugh at, what to say of army generals and commanders.

Therefore no logical or intelligent person can believe that all these forces have been brought for confronting a possible Iraqi aggression against Saudi Arabia. The fact is that the Persian Gulf has no room for all these warships and aircraft carriers and for suppression of Iraq we all know that all these forces and equipment are not necessary. Then what is the truth? And for what purpose have these foreign forces been brought to this region?

With respect to the world-devouring record of America and the fact that the world's heart beats in the sensitive Persian Gulf region, it can be said that American forces have come to stay in this sensitive region. Because if a major war occurs in the world the power that controls this sensitive and vital region will be the certain winner of that war. Therefore the Americans intend to station themselves in this region and bully the regional countries. And the first signs of U.S. bullying became evident when they warned the regional countries that their flights should take place with the permission of U.S. forces stationed in the region.

In short, the presence of U.S. and other foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region is absolutely contrary to the interests of the regional countries. It is now up to the regional governments and nations to press the world public opinion for withdrawal of these forces, through their complete alertness and readiness.

'Muscle Flexing' Criticized

NC0809063290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Presence Heightens Tension in the Region"]

[Text] The increase in the American military build-up in the region has led to the heaping of a lot of criticism on Washington. The United Nations too has started to distance itself from what America is doing in the face of the new Middle East crisis. Last Thursday the UN Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar explicitly said any move to place a military blockade against Iraq is contrary to the world body's decisions. He referred to "economic sanctions" as the only punishment considered for Iraq by the UN for the time being.

For a fact however the United Nations has a global mandate and its decisions should be binding on all countries if international tensions are to be prevented from heightening.

Now according to the UN Charter the Security Council may impose certain punishments, proportionate to the intensity of the violation in question, on those governments which threaten global peace and security. If sanctions do not work then the body may proceed to harsher measures including the use of UN military forces. As such any act out of this internationally accepted framework is a violation of world regulations.

Now at a time when because of recent changes even major military alliances such as NATO are called into question, the U.S. is trying to fish in troubled waters. Under the pretext of protecting Saudi Arabia from an Iraqi threat, Washington has involved itself in a huge military build-up in this potentially explosive part of the world.

The U.S. has taken these measures without coordination with the United Nations and this not only will not reduce tension but will shoot it up like anything. Besides, this American muscle flexing in this very sensitive region is a direct blow to the mandate of the United Nations and seriously undermines it.

The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait however has no backing in the world community. But the solution to this problem does not necessarily lie in an illegal invasion of the region by the United States.

By deploying its forces in the Saudi Arabia Washington is probably trying to convince its own Western allies that they need to be under an American security umbrella if the oil flow is to be guaranteed. It may also be trying to make Europe, which is on the way to an overall unity, dependent on the U.S. for energy.

As a result of this unwanted military enterprise, the American presence preempts the relations between regional nations and West from ever developing into a healthy and logical relationship. This military meddling also disturbs the world regulations embodied in the United Nations and Security Council. If not checked the daily increasing military build-up in the region by Washington ups the ante in the Persian Gulf giving it even more dangerous dimensions. American military presence in the Middle East, in short, is a perpetuation of tension in the region.

Editorial Views Tehran's 'Realistic' Gulf Stance

NC0809065890 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran's Stance Towards Kuwaiti Crisis Is Realistic"]

[Text] Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Ahmad al-Sabah is expected in Tehran one of these days and it seems not all quarters in the country agree with such a tour. A group of Majlis deputies have already submitted their written protest over the trip to Speaker Mahdi Karrubi. These deputies held that Kuwait supported Iraq with astronomical sums of money during the eight-year course of the war. As such there is no wisdom, from this perspective, for the welcoming of al-Sabah in the Islamic Republic's capital.

Such reasoning definitely holds some water if we remember the huge financial and logistic aid rendered to Baghdad by the Kuwaiti ruling clique during the war. Anti-Iranian moves by the Kuwaiti regime was not limited to aiding the Iraqi war machine alone. Kuwait stopped short of nothing to undercut Iran's financial capability during the very hard economic years the country was going through. This Kuwait did via OPEC by always pushing for an increase in the oil output which at times resulted in a global market glut, and cut Iran's oil revenues.

Iran for its part tried its best to remain cool in the face of all such hostile moves and endeavored much to awaken the Persian Gulf litoral states to the real and, not imaginary, dangers in this part of the world. But the rulers of Kuwait and those of some other small regional states sided with Saddam Husayn of Iraq during the war mainly out of racial considerations.

Today, however, the wisdom of the warnings of founder of the Islamic Republic the late Imam Khomeyni is clear to all. He many times cautioned regional governments against supporting aggression out of blind hostility towards the Islamic Republic. Iran posed no threat at regional nations from its very inception. It has been and is still genuinely after friendly ties with all the littoral Persian Gulf states.

The American military expedition to the region, under a pretext of defending Saudi Arabia, is nothing but a move to secure its own imperialistic interests. The U.S. has no sympathy for Persian Gulf Sheikhs and its own interests alone are its primary concern.

Now as far as the al-Sabah visit to Tehran is concerned, it should be noted that Iran's agreement to it does not by any means imply a backtracking from its previous policies.

In the course of the current crisis in the Persian Gulf, the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait on August 2, the Islamic Republic has been among the few nations that has adopted a very logical stance. Iran's moves accord fully with international norms and regulations.

Aggression against any country is vehemently and reservedly [as published] condemned. But such condemnation does not necessarily imply entirely unstinted support for the ruling regime of any particular country. The Kuwaiti problem, however, should be a lesson to one and all.

Editorial Assesses Saudi 'Threat' to OPEC

NC0709201490 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 22 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Saudi Threat Against OPEC"]

[Text] Saudi Arabia has failed to win the support of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to convene an emergency meeting to discuss raising OPEC output. At least seven out of the 13 members of the organization should have voted in favor of the proposal. The Islamic Republic of Iran played an important role in defusing the new Saudi scheme to glut the market.

The Saudi request for an increase in OPEC output to meet a shortfall of some four million bpd [barrels per day] resulting from an international embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude, is rather politically-motivated.

The Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir told reporters on Saturday that his country will boost production by 37 percent, or two million bpd, if OPEC fails to hold an emergency meeting.

The shortfall in the international market as a result of the halt in Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil supplies on the one hand and the mounting tension in the Persian Gulf following the U.S. military buildup on the other, has boosted the prices to a great extent.

The price hike has forced the consumer countries, particularly the U.S. and the Western Europe to draw up a new strategy based on lesser consumption. That also includes a rise in oil products, particularly petrol and gas oil.

On the other hand, the escalating crisis in the Persian Gulf redoubled with the oil shortfall has encouraged the Riyadh government to issue threats against OPEC in its bid to attain certain new goals.

They include:
- —To meet the world's oil needs to save the U.S. and the West from the problems they are facing over a hike in the price of oil products which has caused growing public dissatisfaction.
- —To prevent the raising anew of an old scenario in the West that alternatives such as coal and electricity should take the place of oil as sources of energy.
- —To fulfill its commitment to its Western allies and create a balance in the world market.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced over the weekend that it will put its bases at the disposal of the U.S. military forces. This, in the opinion of oil experts and OPEC analysts, means that Saudi Arabia has now a fit ally in its new oil game. If the UAE follows the Saudi policy, OPEC would be faced with a serious threat (raising output) which would cause a price fall again.

Therefore, in view of the present sensitive juncture, the organization should take appropriate measures to counter further possible threats by Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The announcement on Monday by the OPEC President Sadek Boussena that he will hold consultations in Vienna with some member states might be a move in this direction. These talks may fall effective in taking an appropriate decision by OPEC to thwart the blow the Saudis intend to inflict on the organization.

Petroleum Minister Attends Pipeline Commissioning

LD1309132890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, speaking today during ceremonies marking the commissioning of gas pipeline feeders to Gonbad and Shahrud townships, northeastern Iran, said. With the completion of the second phase of the reconstruction of Abadan refinery, scheduled to be completed by the end of this year [ending 20 March 1991], the output of that refinery will rise to 280,000 barrels a day next year.

The following are our reporters on the commissioning of the first phase of gas network in Shahrud and on the inauguration of the gas network in Gonbad.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The first phase of the project to extend the gas network to Shahrud township was commissioned today before noon in ceremonies attended by the petroleum minister. The project includes a 78-kilometer pipeline from 'Aliabad as well as 25 kilometers of urban netwworks, four stations for gas flow control, two safety stations, and two stations for condensation and measuring. It has already cost 7 billion rials, which has been allocated from the funds earmarked for the National Iranian Gas company.

The Shahrud township gas feeder project will be completed by the year 71 [Iranian year ending 20 March 1993]. The project now being implemented involves three phases comprising 179 kilometers of pipe layed in urban areas. Total funds allocated amount to 10 billion rials. Once the project is commissioned, more than 6,000 households will be able to receive gas.

The projects involving the extension of gas supplies to the townships of Damghan and Bastam will be fed from the Shahrud gas feeder project. Work to lay pipe for Bastam will start in the year 70 [Iranian year ending 20 March 1992].

[Second unidentified reporter] the project to supply Gonbad township with Gas, costing 1,147 million rials, was commissioned this morning in ceremonies attended by the petroleum minister and a number of local officials. In the inauguration ceremonies, Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i reiterated the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran that there is no need to increase oil output by OPEC member-states. He added that the shortage of oil in the world markets could be made up through use of the oil reserves of the industrialized ocuntries.

Regarding the reconstruction of the Abadan refinery, he said that the first phase has already been completed and that the refinery now has an output of 140,000 barrels a day. The completion of the second phase of the reconstruction of that refinery, scheduled to continue until the end of this year, will boost the output capacity of the refinery by next year to 280,000 barrels a day. Thus, many difficulties concerning the supply of oil by-products will be solved.

He added that the oil reserves of the Caspian Sea are estimated at some 3 billion barrels. He said that the Caspian Sea and Mazandaran Province have a capacity of 40 depots [makhzan]. He said necessary studies have been accomplished and that surveys will soon be implemented.

Stressing the need for production of equipment needed to supply gas to households, he said that $83 million in foreign exchange has been allocated. The task of manufacturing gas fueled heating systems has been entrusted to the Ministry of Industries, while the Ministry of commerce is charged with the task of importing necessary equipment from abroad. The implementation of that project will hopefully solve the problem of a lack of availability of equipment needed for supplying gas to households. [end recording]

More Unregistered POW's Arrive Through Khosravi

Part of Continuing Releases

NC1209053690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] As part of the continuing releases of unregistered Iranian prisoners of war, at 0130 today the 17th group of our country's heroic and unregistered free men were turned over to officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the Khosravi border under the supervision of the International Red Cross Committee. Along with the release of these free men, 1,000 Iraqi prisoners of war were handed over to Iraqi officials under the supervision of the International Red Cross Committee.

Further Exchange at Border

LD1209185890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Two more groups of unregistered freemen [released POW's] have returned to the Islamic homeland, where they were welcomed. Please listen to a telephone report from one of our colleagues:

[Unidentified reporter] With the arrival of another group of pride-inspiring freemen in their Islamic homeland, the exchange of Iranian and Iraqi POW's has achieved greater momentum on the Khosravi border, compared with previous days. According to the report of our correspondent despatched to Qasr-ye Shirin region, up to 1800 today, 1,000 more epoch-making freemen who were recently registered by the International Red Cross Committee arrived in the Islamic Republic in two groups through the Khosravi border and were welcomed by the representatives of the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult—Khamene'i] in Baktaran and Hamadan Provinces, a number of officials and commanders of military and security forces, and some children of martyrs from Kashan.

According to the same report, two other exchanges of freemen with Iraqi POW's are underway, and in each case 500 more freemen will be returned to their Islamic homeland. At the same time, the 14th group of unregistered freemen who have recently returned to the Islamic homeland and have passed through their guarantine in Bakhtaran left this morning for their homelands in a number of aircraft of the Air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Arrivals Continue 13 Sep

NC1309070690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] The dear and honorable unregistered free men continue to arrive in the Islamic homeland. According to the latest reports from the headquarters in charge of the free men's affairs, 1,500 more brave free men were exchanged at Khosravi border as of 2230 yesterday with 1,500 Iraqi prisoners of war who were handed over to their country's officials. At 0030 today, 500 more unregistered free men were handed over to the Islamic Republic's officials and were warmly welcomed by the combatants of Islam. With the arrival of these dear free men, a total of 2,000 free men arrived in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The same report states that 500 more Iraqi prisoners of war were handed over to Iraqi officials this morning and returned to their country. Thus, since yesterday, 2,000 Iraqi prisoners of war returned to their country.

Lorestan Oil Well Becomes Operational

NC1309070190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Thanks to the efforts by the workers and experts in the South's oil-producing areas and the commencement of the operation of the Sarkan exploitation unit 12 km from Pol-e Dokhtar, the first of the oil wells sunk in Lorestan Province began producing this week.

The Central News Unit reports that the Sarkan-Malekuh exploitation unit, which has been given the auspicious name of Seyyed ol-Shohada, can produce 30,000 barrels of oil per day. Its current output is 10,000 barrels per day, which is carried by a 10-inch pipeline running 21 km from the Lorestan reserves through the Afrineh pumping station to the Bakhtaran Refinery for refining.

Indonesian Reportage on Reza Amrollahi's Visit

WA1209182990

For Indonesian reportage on the visit to Indonesia by Deputy Prime Minister Reza Amrollahi (also president of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization), including meeting with President Suharto and discussion regarding cooperation in atomic energy development, see the Indonesia section of the 5 September and subsequent issues of the East Asia DAILY REPORT.

*Kho'iniha on Experts' Elections, Persian Gulf

90AS0377A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 29 Aug 90 p 18

["Excerpts" from interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Kho'iniha by ETTELA'AT reporter on 20 August 1990; place not given]

[Text] **In an interview with the newspaper ETTELA'AT for the occasion of the Assembly of Experts elections and the crisis in the area, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Musavi-Kho'iniha discussed the importance and position of the Assembly of Experts, the crisis in the Persian Gulf, and Iraq's attack against Kuwait. We have selected excerpts from the interview, printed below.**

ETTELA'AT Newspaper, 5/29/1369 [20 August 1990]

[ETTELA'AT] As one of the important achievements of the Islamic revolution, the Assembly of Experts has a special place in the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Please explain its importance.

[Musavi-Kho'iniha] In the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the most important pillar is the leadership, and a person with special qualifications and characteristics must hold the position of leader in the government. According to Islamic criteria, the government must have an acceptable system, and the involvement by officials in the affairs of the people must be according to religious criteria. To address these important matters, the great Islamic theologians and scholars believe that Muslim society must have a religiously lawful government, and Islam has stipulated the requirements for this important issue. This group of theologians believes that at the head of the government there must be a just person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, and all the government's affairs are conducted with that just person's approval and authorization. What is meant by a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence is an expert on Islam who can explain divine commands by inference from Islamic criteria in all areas and for all government needs. Therefore, this is not simply one kind of independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence and a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence as the concept was formerly understood in the seminaries. As his holiness the imam said in one of his speeches, to manage a society and a government, the independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence of the seminaries is inadequate. In addition to that, independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence found in the seminaries, the leader must understand conditions in the world, political affairs and the international mechanism, and he must be able to distinguish between the enemies and the friends of Islam. Therefore, that person who must take hold of the reins of Muslim society is not merely a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence in the sense commonly understood in the seminaries, with skills and abilities mainly having to do with very secondary issues, mostly in specialized theological areas. For the designation and selection of such a person, it is natural that a constructive procedure must be used. There are two approaches we might adopt, one is direct election by the people, meaning that first we would select individuals as just persons with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence and tell the people to choose one of them. Direct elections such as those for the president of the republic and seats in the Majles might not be able to succeed as a way to choose the leader, because distinguishing the just person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence and the efficient and brave manager who is aware of domestic and international conditions from among the tens of just persons with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence we have in the country is a task for the experts, it is not a task for the public. It is not something that can be done by the common people and each individual person, where each person makes his own determination and chooses one of ten just individuals. We have therefore provided for indirect elections in the Constitution, in the sense that the people choose a group of people as discerning experts for such a matter, and then they gather in the Majles as the representatives of the people, and this group chooses the leader. Definitely, in such conditions it is easier to choose an expert for the people than by direct election.

In reality, using the procedures given, this is the indirect method of election.

Therefore, with these explanations, it becomes evident that the Assembly of Experts has a high and important place in the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[ETTELA'AT] In your view, at this time should the Assembly of Experts operate only in its domain of responsibility to designate the leader, or should it go beyond that?

[Musavi-Kho'iniha] The Assembly of Experts has two responsibilities. One is to select the leader. This is done at times when we do not have a leader in society. Just as it happened after the imam passed away, the leader left the world and the Assembly of Experts was required to select the next leader. Or, according to reasons given in the Constitution, the leader might be dismissed from his position. His dismissal is also done by the Assembly of Experts. The Assembly of Experts can both dismiss the leader and choose the next one.

Therefore, the designation of a leader is a duty. Perhaps in our time and under the next Assembly of Experts, there will no longer be the need for such a thing. During the time of his holiness the imam, because of his age it was felt that the more the Assembly of Experts delayed the selection of the next leader, the more dangerous it would be. In our time, however, in view of the leader's age, this worry does not exist, and, God willing, the task of designating the leader will not arise so soon.

The Assembly of Experts also has a second responsibility. Article 111 of the Constitution says: Whenever the leader becomes unable to perform his legal duties, or lacks one of the qualifications given in Articles 50 and 109, or when it becomes clear that he lacked some of the qualifications from the beginning, he will be dismissed from his position. Making this determination is the responsibility of the Assembly of Experts mentioned in Article 108. Therefore, based on Article 111, throughout the tenure of a leader, the Assembly of Experts must supervise his activities and behavior.

In the same way that they must immediately select the next leader as soon as they learn of the death of the leader, if they learn that the leader lacks some of the qualifications given in the Constitution, they must act. Learning of this is not an accident. They must be vigilant and watchful and alertly follow the activities of the leader. For example, if an illness overtakes the leader on the basis of which he cannot fulfill some of his duties, the Assembly of Experts is obligated to study the circumstances, and if this is the case, they must dismiss the leader and choose another one.

The same is true with regard to justice. Likewise, if the Assembly of Experts learns that the one they have chosen as leader does not have some of the qualifications, they must reexamine the situation and make a decision in this area.

As we saw during the time of his holiness the imam, where the Assembly of Experts took a precautionary measure, and lest we be without a leader for a moment and conditions not be favorable to meet, consider, and select a leader, during the time of his holiness the imam and in his presence they selected another person as the next leader. In those conditions, the Assembly of Experts selected an individual for this purpose believing he had the necessary qualifications, but then they realized that he did not have some of those qualifications and that they had made an error to begin with. This may happen at times. Therefore the second duty of the Assembly of Experts is that after selecting the leader and throughout the leader's tenure it must watch and monitor the activities of the leader so that if, God forbid, at some point they learn that the leader is unable to carry out the duties of leadership or that he lacks some of those qualifications, they must dismiss that leader and select the next leader, according to the same procedures that are given in the Constitution.

Of course these comments are due to the precise provisions given in the Constitution, otherwise, just as we saw during the time of his holiness the imam, the Assembly of Experts would not need to supervise the activities of his holiness the imam. Indeed, everyone believed that it was his holiness the imam who ought to supervise the Assembly of Experts and lead and guide them. Now that the Assembly of Experts has chosen an individual as leader, certainly they have done so with a high degree of confidence, and they have no concern that he will at some moment be unable to carry out the duties of leadership or lose some of those qualifications. There is no such concern.

This selection was calculated and precise, and there was never any concern afterwards, but when the legislator makes a law he must make the necessary provisions for the exceptional and unexpected moments, and these provisions are made in Article 111.

[ETTELA'AT] In your view, what qualifications should the experts elected by the people have?

[Musavi-Kho'iniha] Certainly, when the leader must be a just person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, powerful, brave, efficient, with correct political and social insight and sufficient power to lead, those who are to select such a person must also be competent to recognize these things.

They must be aware of the fundamentals of independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, and they must know about the things that indicate independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, and they must be able to distinguish a person who has this discretion from one who does not.

Likewise, the experts themselves must have correct political insight.

If it is not this way, how will they know if this person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence who is being chosen as leader has correct political insight or not? Those we designate as experts must be aware of social issues, they must understand social relations, and they must be able to identify the reactions of society's judges. Likewise they must have sufficient management ability for leadership. People must be elected who understand what is sufficient power for leadership. If a person does not himself know about management, he cannot express an opinion about whether someone has sufficient management power. He does not even have the power to discern such a thing. Therefore, those whom we elect as experts cannot be merely highly prominent, learned, and pious clergymen.

It is not as if a person who is a pious clergyman will definitely have the competence to go to the Assembly of Experts and give a view in the election of the leader. He must have revolutionary vision and insight, and he must have shown throughout his life how much he has been with the revolution.

People must not be elected who throughout the revolution and after the triumph of the revolution merely watched during the difficult times that were experienced by the people. Our future will have many difficulties. All the problems in the region now indicated that the future management of our society must be very strong and powerful. Therefore it is not right for us to think that whoever is a clergyman will have the power to discern and designate a leader, or that whoever is a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence will definitely be able to designate the leader.

[ETTELA'AT] What do you expect of the people, for better Assembly of Experts elections?

[Musavi-Kho'iniha] The people must show the necessary concern for the Assembly of Experts elections. It is therefore necessary that the people turn out appropriately with this concern for the Assembly of Experts elections. This is the second Assembly of Experts election to be held. There may be the concern that our opponents will try, in the second Assembly of Experts elections, to make the point that since the imam, the people have forgotten the imam's way and thought, and that they no longer have the necessary support from the imam's ideas, and for this reason public turnout for the elections was not striking! If the people take part much more strongly in these elections than they did in the first, it will be effective in stabilizing the foundations of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] government. God willing, our people, with that special political insight and perception that they have, and with the teachings they have taken from the imam, will give striking and broad attendance to the elections, and the candidates, in competing with one another, will act fully in accordance with Islamic criteria and religious ethics and no candidate or his supporters will seek to attack or damage the other side or his opponent's reputation, especially since all the candidates are clergymen. Personally, I have not yet reached the point of believing that all members of the Assembly of Experts must be clergymen. In my view, we also have people in society who are reliable, trustworthy, and expert who are also not clergymen, but they can participate on the Assembly of Experts, because being a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence and a theologian are not the only requirements for leadership. The qualifications also include management, organization, political insight, and courage. Thus a non-cleric could also sit on the Assembly of Experts. However, now the laws and regulations for electing the Assembly of Experts are such that only clergymen may participate.

The difference between these elections and the Majles elections is that there is no expectation of political disturbances that will make the people pessimistic, and under no circumstances is it acceptable for a candidate to say something against another candidate that attacks his reputation. Supporters of candidates must also try not to attack the reputations of other candidates to try to obtain votes for their own candidates, for this will damage the reputation of the clergy. Therefore, for this purpose the clergymen themselves, more than any other person, must take into account the soundness of the elections and observe ethical and religious issues, and in accordance with that their supporters will also do the same thing.

A person who becomes a candidate for the elections must not think, if I go to the Assembly of Experts, that assembly will be good, and if my opponent gets the vote, it will be bad. The difference between two candidates is not like the difference between Islam and infidelity. Therefore the candidates and their supporters must not resort to any kind of violation to get the vote. The people will vote for the one they want. The source of these inappropriate political ideas that are occurring is that each person thinks it is only he who will protect Islam, the nation, and the Islamic revolution, if he obtains such a post, and if his opponent goes, for example Islam and the nation will disappear.

[ETTELA'AT] What is your analysis and evaluation of the situation in the region and the crisis that has developed due to America's military presence in the area?

[Musavi-Kho'iniha] We are now in a situation that is very complex and sensitive. It might be true to say that we have not been in such a complex situation in all the years since the triumph of the Islamic revolution. Of course, we do not want to say that we have never had more dangerous circumstances than the present ones. No, in the past we have passed through very sensitive circumstances, but the present circumstances have a special complexity that demands an efficient approach. Both the officials and the people must approach the situation with great vigilance.

One of the complexities in this situation is that since the rulers of Kuwait opened the door to the imperialist powers in the region, Saddam Husayn gave himself permission to cross into Kuwaiti territory. One time they attack or stage a coup d'etat and overthrow the ruler of a country and the people elect someone else as president. Another time they nullify rule by the people, meaning they occupy a country without the consent of the people. This is an ugly and most reprehensible thing to do, and the Islamic Republic of Iran severely condemns the acts of the Iraqi regime in occupying Kuwait.

On the other hand, this same aggression has allowed the imperialist powers, led by America, to obtain permission and come into the area.

Thus one ugly act is the aggression itself, and worse than the aggression is that the occupier has caused the worst enemy of Islam and the Muslims, meaning America, to use this justification to come into the area, since the residents of the area have asked it to come to the area to save them.

America, which once felt it would face tens of mines, missiles, and rockets on land, sea, and air if it took a single step in the Persian Gulf area, has now come here to the area to save its people.

To this complexity is added the point that Iraq is engaging in a deception. Unfortunately, some of the forces in the region even believe Iraq's claim that it is standing against America. In this regard, the Iraqi foreign minister said to Iran, if you are an anti-American and anti-imperialist government, why don't you come and stand with us against America?

Saddam drew America into the region and now he claims that America is picking the quarrel. On the other hand, if Saddam says he is fighting against governments who are affiliated with America, and that this is what caused America to come to the area, we answer that if he attacked Kuwait because he considered the al-Sabah family government to be affiliated with America, and he attacked Kuwait to fight America, then why did he attack us? At the time Saddam attacked us, our greatest distinction in the area was that we overthrew a government affiliated with America, meaning the shah, and we replaced it with an anti-American government. Saddam attacked us under such conditions. He has a bad record in the area for having attacked a government that was 100 percent anti-American. Thus a Saddam who came and committed such aggression cannot claim today that he attacked Kuwait because its government is affiliated with America.

Of course, we do not like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, or the rest of them, because to the extent that they were able they helped Iraq, and this assistance gave power to Saddam. I believe that today Saddam also has the ability to attack Saudi Arabia, but it is not clear what they are going to do against Saddam. Kuwait is now occupied and they cannot do anything with Saddam other than the embargo. If he attacks Saudi Arabia and other nations in the area, they would take the same approach.

Therefore, apart from us, Iraq's other neighbors, whether to the south, the north, or the west, must realize that there is danger under their noses, because if they cannot put Saddam in his place, there will continue to be a crisis in the area in the future. Therefore, the complexity of the situation has become a special case in every way, and in the midst of this we have adopted our own responsible procedure.

Pakistan

Islamabad Updates Effort To Evacuate Nationals

BK1209162190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] All Pakistani nationals, who had fled to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Turkey, have now returned home and the evacuation operation has been temporarily suspended because there are no Pakistanis left in those countries.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan has agreed to provide transit facilities between Takhtan and Wagah to Indian and Bangladeshi nationals returning from Kuwait and Iraq on humanitarian grounds. The spokesman said that since the repatriation of the (?aforementioned) Pakistanis from Kuwait and Iraq, the Pakistani naval ship sent to Jordan for repatriation purposes has been given to Bangladesh to bring back its nationals.

The spokesman added that about 30,000 Pakistanis are still stranded in Kuwait and an equal number in Iraq. He said the food situation in Kuwait is serious and the Government of Pakistan is sending in, by trucks, food for Pakistani nationals to its embassy in Kuwait. Answering a question, the spokesman said Pakistani technicians are not being allowed to leave Kuwait. The government has taken up this matter with the Iraqi Government, and some of the people have been allowed to leave Kuwait.

Spokesman Views India Relations, Border Issue

BK1209144690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The next round of foreign secretary-level talks aimed at removing tension between Pakistan and India is expected to be held in Islamabad in the first week of next month. A Foreign Office spokesman told journalists in Islamabad this afternoon that necessary consultations are in progress to finalize the date for the talks.

Answering a question, the spokesman said the border situation between the two countries is still tense, and serious border incidents continue to take place because the armies are still positioned close to each other. The spokesman further said that Pakistan has agreed to provide transit facilities between Takhtan and Wagah to Indian and Bangladeshi nationals returning from Kuwait and Iraq on humanitarian grounds.

Bhutto Files Candidacy; Court Missing Documents

BK1209153590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Karachi, Sept 12 (AFP)—Ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan on Wednesday filed papers seeking candidacy in the October 24 elections as a special court here began hearing corruption charges against her. Ms. Bhutto filed nomination papers from her ancestral town of Larkana, 350 kilometers (210 miles) north of here before a home crowd chanting slogans, witnesses said. [passage omitted]

The cases filed here on Monday allege an attempt to change the consultancy contract for a Karachi power project to be financed by the Asian Development Bank, while the second deals with a cotton sale contract to Rally Brothers Ltd. for below-market rates. Justice Wajihuddin Ahmed, hearing the government attorney, observed that some of the documents mentioned in the reference were missing. He asked the counsel for the state to supply copies of the documents and adjourned the proceedings until Tuesday when the second case concerning the cotton export deal will also be heard.

Ms. Bhutto said here Monday she would challenge these charges in court as they were "without any basis."

Court Throws Out Case Against Jahangir Badr

BK1209155790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The special court headed by Justice Munir A. Sheikh today returned the reference against the former federal minister, Jahangir Badr, on the basis of the inavailability of any prima facie proof against him. The former minister was accused of making an illegal decision in his capacity as chairman of the board of directors of Sui Northern Gas, allowing the refund of a (?loan of) 7.6 million rupees to a private contracting company. The learned judge said the decision to refund the amount to the private company was not made by the former minister alone. The court further ruled that there is not enough proof to support the argument that the former minister had pressured other members of the board or used his influence in connection with this decision. The learned judge said he will submit his written verdict within the next two days and added that no other reference can be filed against the minister in connection with this allegation.

Six Killed in Sniper Shooting in Karachi Area

BK1209160790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] According to reports, six people were killed in an incident of sniper shooting in the Model Colony area of Karachi today. The law enforcement agencies have intensified patrolling in the area.

Sri Lanka

Government Awaits Iraq's Reply on Food, Workers

BK1209131190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1006 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Colombo, Sept 12 (AFP)—A senior Sri Lankan Government official returned home Wednesday after seeking Baghdad's permission to airlift food to thousands of Sri Lankans stranded in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait. Labour Minister G.M. Premachandra, who visited Kuwait and Iraq during a one week Middle East tour, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Colombo had also sought approval from Baghdad to airlift the stranded workers home direct from Kuwait.

"We have requested the Iraqi Government to allow us to airlift food to Kuwait and also to help us evacuate our workers," Mr. Premachandra said. "We are waiting for a response. If they agree we could evacuate the Sri Lankans (from Kuwait) in about a month's time."

More than 80,000 Sri Lankan workers have been trapped in Kuwait following Iraq's August 2 invasion of the tiny emirate. Thousands of other Sri Lankans have fled Kuwait to neighbouring states in an attempt to return home. Mr. Premachandra said that during his visit to Kuwait, he found that there was a severe shortage of food, a fact which he had stressed in his talks with Iraqi officials.

"They (the Iraqis) are considering our request to airlift food to Kuwait," Mr. Premachandra said, adding "our aircraft would be allowed to land either in Kuwait or Iraq." He proposed that if charter flights of the national carrier, Air Lanka, are allowed to evacuate Sri Lankans from Kuwait, al-Basrah and Baghdad, medicine and food for remaining workers could be airlifted on the same flights.

An Air Lanka spokesman here said the carrier was ready to give top priority to any evacuation plan aimed at bringing back Sri Lankans direct from Kuwait. Meanwhile, a Foreign Ministry statement said that Colombo has been "watching developments (in Kuwait) through our embassy in Baghdad and other missions in the Middle East."

It said the Sri Lankan mission at the United Nations has made representations to the Security Council to ensure that Sri Lankans would be given priority "in the event of mass repatriation becoming necessary." The four-page statement also said the European Economic Community (EEC) has provided Sri Lanka with a bilateral grant for the repatriation of stranded Sri Lankans from the Middle East. The Air Lanka spokesman said the first EEC-funded Air Lanka charter arrived in Sri Lanka on Tuesday carrying 232 passengers from Amman where more than 4,000 Sri Lankans are being accomodated at refugee camps.

Mr. Premachandra described the camps as "very crowded" but said Sri Lankan officials were attending to the welfare of their stranded nationals in Jordan. During his visit to Kuwait, Mr. Premachandra met more than 5,000 Sri Lankans, mostly housemaids, who have pitched camp at a school near the Sri Lankan Embassy.

The Foreign Ministry said the U.N.-sponsored International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has so far provided 11 charter flights bringing 1,980 Sri Lankans from Amman to Colombo. "It is expected that IOM charters will come to Sri Lanka every other day carrying 180 (passengers) on each flight."

To expedite the repatriation process in Jordan, which has the largest number of Sri Lankan refugees, Colombo has set up a temporary resident mission in Amman to assist the Sri Lankan consulate there. Hundreds of Sri Lankan refugees are in camps in Riyadh and to a lesser extent in Cairo, Abu Dhabi, Ankara and Tehran. Colombo is also hoping to evacuate 250 Sri Lankans from Cairo by a charter funded by a church agency.

According to the Foreign Ministry, it has contacted Sri Lanka's missions abroad and shipping agents in Colombo to charter aircraft and vessels to bring back the country's refugees. "The foreign minister (Harold Herat) also expects to meet members of the diplomatic corps to seek further assistance to meet the present crisis in regard to Sri Lankan refugees in the various capitals," the statement added.

A total of about 4,500 Sri Lankans have already been flown home on special Air Lanka and IOM-organised flights. If the Gulf crisis is not resolved, Sri Lanka will lose at a conservative estimate about five million dollars a month in foreign exchange remittances from its nationals working in Kuwait. Following the U.N. trade embargo on Baghdad, the Indian Ocean island also lost 20 per cent of its tea exports to Iraq which annually buys 2,500 million rupees (62.5 million dollars) worth of tea.

Defense Ministry Communique on Situation in North

BK1209115190 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Two incidents have been reported from the Eastern Province yesterday. The communique issued by the Defense Ministry said that the security forces have conducted ambushes as well as search operations in the Eastern Province. The Special Task Force from Kalmunai and Marathamunai confronted a group of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists at (Periya Kala) in Amparai District. Five LTTE terrorists were killed and their weapons and ammunition and communication equipment were recovered. The Special Task Force conducting search operations in Arugam near Akkaraipattu killed three more LTTE terrorists and recovered their weapons, grenades, ammunition, jungle knives, and other equipment. No casualties have been reported by the Special Task Force.

On the food supplies to the north, the communique says that the ship (Vinko Trader) has unloaded its consignment of food and essential items at Point Pedro and is scheduled to reach Colombo harbor yesterday to take a further consignment of food and essential items to the Jaffna Peninsula. The ship (MV Seagriya) has unloaded its cargo at Point Pedro and is scheduled to move to Mullaitivu with food and essential items. The MV Amazon with over 490 metric tons of food and essential items was expected to reach Kayts Island yesterday. The ship Lanka Siri is being loaded with food and essential items at the Colombo harbor.

With the restoration of civil administration in the districts of Amparai, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee, attendance in government offices and institution is reported to be 75 to 90 percent. The government agents of these three districts have been instructed by the government to authorize all local heads of department to pay the hardship allowance with effect from 11 June 1990 based on attendance to all those who have reported for work, treat all those who have not reported for work as having vacated post, and recruit locally casual employees with requisite qualifications to fill all existing vacancies.

General Cyril Ranatunga, secretary in the Ministry of Defense, says that several inquiries were made as to whether a curfew has been imposed in the Jaffna Peninsula. He said that the curfew was lifted as far back as the 5th of December 1990 [as heard] to facilitate innocent civilians to obtain food and other essential requirements and that since then no curfew has been reimposed.

Troops Break LTTE Siege of Jaffna Fort

BK1309075690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, soldiers backed by helicopter gunships and gunboats broke through the Tamil rebel lines today to crack the three-month siege of Jaffna Fort. The military officials said in Colombo that the troops forced their way into the fort at about 0730 this morning. One soldier was killed and 10 were wounded when the forces approached the Jaffna Fort. The officials said there was resistance by the rebels, but it was neutralized. The officials have no further details except that the Army is consolidating its position and destroying the rebel bunkers around the fort. More than 200 policemen and soldiers have been trapped inside the fort since the separatist rebels launched an offensive on the 11th of June.

Meanwhile, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, and Mullaitivu Districts have been placed under curfew since this morning. It follows a visit of service commanders to the Jaffna Peninsula. Our Colombo correspondent Karuppaswamy understands that the visit of the three service chiefs was aimed at assessing the situation for fresh operations against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants in Vavuniya and other places in the peninsula.

Air Force Plane Crashes in Attack on Rebels

BK1309080290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0715 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Colombo, Sept 13 (AFP)—An Italian-built Sia Marchetti aircraft of the Sri Lankan Air Force Thursday plunged into a lagoon as it conducted operations against Ttamil rebels in the northern Jaffna Peninsula, officials said.

An official here said that the aircraft had developed engine trouble before nose-diving into the Jaffna lagoon. Navy divers were searching for the plane which went down with its pilot, he added. The incident came as heavy fighting erupted around the besieged Jaffna Fort army camp between guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and government troops who landed in the area by boats, officials said.

Major Military Operation Launched in North

BK1309084090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0737 GMT 13 Sep 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 13 (LANKAPUVATH)—The districts of Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi are under indefinite curfew. A fairly big military operation is now on said Cyril Ranatunge, secretary Ministry of Defence. The post cabinet press briefing was held this morning in Colombo. Replying a question from a pressman, Mr. Cyril Ranatunge said that military operations begun this morning with all three service commanders visiting Vavuniya and Jaffna Fort.

He, however, did not say how, by air or land that the service commanders visit Jaffna Fort. [sentence as received] Mr. Cyril Ranatunge further said that the government has not given up the idea of handing over the Jaffna Fort to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The reopening of the Jaffna Hospital is also very important. But, he said, the military operations also should be continued. All these three go together, he pointed out.

Answering another question Mr. Ranatunge said that the government's intention at any point was not to clear the whole of the Jaffna Peninsula of civilians. We only requested the civilians to move out of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] gun positions and camps for their own safety.

It was reported at the press briefing that the minister of plantation industries and minister of state for defence was out of the country. Minister of Industries, Science and Technology, Ranil Wickremasinghe, Minister of [State for] Foreign Affairs John Amaratunga, Minister of Food and Co-operatives Weerasinghe Mallimarachchi, Minister of State for Information A.J. Ranasinghe and the advisor on foreign relations to the president, Bradman Weerakoon, also were associated with the post Cabinet press briefing.

Military Chiefs Visit Jaffna Camp Amid Fighting

BK1309084490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0754 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Colombo, Sep 13 (AFP)—The heads of Sri Lanka's Armed Forces Thursday made a surprise visit to the supposedly besieged northern Jaffna Fort Army camp amid heavy fighting against Tamil rebels in the area, military officials here said.

Defence Secretary General Cyril Ranatunge made the announcement at a weekly press briefing here but gave no further details on how or why the commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force went into the ancient fort, which has been under siege for three months.

"I will give you later", Gen. Ranatunge said when asked for more information on the trip to the camp by Army Commander Lieutenant-General Hamilton Wanasinghe, Navy Commander Vice-Admiral Ananda Silva and Air Force Commander Air Marshal Terrance Gunawardene.

The visit came as Colombo imposed a blanket curfew in the northern districts of Jaffna, Mullaittivu and Kilinochchi to step up military operations against separatist guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Gen. Ranatunge said that military operations were under way in the three northern districts but would not give details. Independent sources confirmed heavy fighting was going on in the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

A military spokesman here said that troops had landed by small boats on the peninsula and begun an offensive against rebel positions around the fort. "The Army is now in the fort area. We are pushing ahead on all fronts to wipe out the rebels from this place," the spokesman said, referring to hundreds of heavily armed Tigers fighting from well-fortified bunkers outside the fort.

Three soldiers had died in the fighting and the Tigers were believed to have suffered heavy casualties, he added. Officials also said an Italian-built Sia Marchetti aircraft of the Sri Lankan Air Force plunged into Jaffna lagoon with its pilot after developing engine trouble as it attacked rebel positions.

The spokesman could not confirm whether the siege had been ended but said some troop reinforcements had moved into the fort. The LTTE blockaded the fort and many other garrisons in the north shortly after fighting broke out on June 11 between government troops and the rebels. Since then Colombo has launched several offensives to relieve the fort but they have been stalled by fierce resistance put up by the Tigers who control the Jaffna Peninsula.

The Air Force earlier had twice managed to land helicopters outside the fort under heavy rebel fire, and evacuate the wounded who were among some 200 soldiers and policemen holed up inside the peninsula's main Army garrison. It was not clear whether the service commanders had landed in the fort by helicopter or travelled by a causeway linking military-controlled Mandaitivu Island and the peninsula where the besieged camp is located.

Three weeks ago government troops captured the strategic island but rebel mines prevented them from advancing across the Pannai Causeway. Acting Minister of State for Defence John Amaratunga, who was also present at the briefing, admitted "that casualties on the side of the government forces had been rather high" during the past week.

He said that 16 soldiers, 27 guerrillas and six civilians had died in a week of fresh violence in the island's Tamil-dominated northeast where the Tigers are campaigning for secession. Gen. Ranatunge meanwhile denied LTTE allegations that troops massacred about 150 Tamil civilians on Tuesday in eastern Batticaloa District. "That's a fabrication," he said, adding that the commanding officer of Batticaloa had personally visited the reported scene of the slaughter to verify the facts.

In a statement issued by its London office and released here late Wednesday, the guerrillas charged that the Army and death squads "surrounded the Tamil village of Sathrukonda and mercilessly massacred the poor villagers."

"In the indiscriminate killing spree, about 150 Tamil civilians of all ages were brutally massacred. Most have been hacked to death with swords and knives. Several women and children were among the dead," the LTTE said. It said the injured have been admitted to Batticaloa Hospital. "In an attempt to hide the evidence, the armed forces have burnt the dead bodies," the statement said, adding that "news of the massacre has started to leak despite the government's effort to muffle it."

"How many more massacres have the Tamil people have to go through before the world public opinion wakes up?," the statement said. Releasing updated official figures, Gen. Ranatunge said more than 1,051 members of the Armed Forces and police were either killed or missing and 636 civilians had also died in the violence across the sprawling northeast.

Military officials have said that security forces killed more than 1,000 rebels. But according to official and unofficial sources more than 3,900 people have been killed in the violence and some one million have been made refugees.

Forces Reach Jaffna; Heavy LTTE Casualties

BK1309102290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0934 GMT 13 Sep 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 13 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan forces triumphantly marched through the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] ranks and reached Jaffna Fort this morning. Military sources told LANKAPUVATH that in this successful operation three soldiers were killed and 14 others injured. The sources said the main thrust of the operation is to clear the environs of the Jaffna Fort of LTTE terrorists who have laid siege to this 200-year-old Dutch fort for over three months now.

Joint Operations Command (JOC) sources told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE suffered heavy casualties. Several sea and air landings took place in this main offensive today. The main assault took place over the Jaffna lagoon.

An operation which was launched to clear the fort area three weeks ago was temporarily suspended, when the forces had to concentrate on breaking Tiger siege on the Mullaitivu Camp which led to the wounding of over 30 soldiers. In a daring operation against heavy odds, the security forces who did several sea and air landings on the Mullaitivu coast, evacuated the 30 wounded servicemen and cleared the Mullaitivu town of 'Tiger' terrorists. Over 75 Tigers were killed and about 200 were wounded, while the forces lost four men and had over 20 personnel wounded in the Mullaitivu operation.